

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR**  
**GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE**

**CODE 410**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained grade stabilization structure is an asset to your property. This structure was designed and installed to stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for technical assistance on repairs or modifications to the structure or if new potential hazards are constructed in the breach inundation area.

**General Recommendations**

- Avoid operating farm equipment too close to the structure.
- Periodically inspect the principal spillway for proper functioning. Operate valves at least annually to maintain good working condition
- Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions of spillways, trash racks, and pipelines.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, and applying herbicides when necessary. Periodically mow to control height.
- Maintain installed fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.

- Check all structure drains for flow and note the estimated flow rate along with the upstream water levels. Keep the screens and/or rodent guards in place.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Remove woody vegetation from the embankments and the auxiliary spillway.
- Check the embankment top and slopes for settlement or cracks. Check slopes for uniformity, bulges, sloughs, or wet areas.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces. Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint it.
- Inspect rock riprap and replace weathered or displaced rock as needed to the constructed.
- Inspect gabion baskets or mattresses for damaged wires or coatings and repair as needed. Replace weathered or displaced rock.
- Inspect concrete blocks and repair or replace as needed.

**Specific Recommendations**

**If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).**