

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
ANIONIC POLYACRYLAMIDE (PAM) APPLICATION**

CODE 450

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained anionic polyacrylamide (PAM) application system is an asset to your farm. PAM is applied as part of a conservation system to reduce soil erosion by water or wind, improve water quality, or improve air quality by reducing dust emissions. The estimated life span of this application is at least 1 year. The life of this installation can be ensured 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.

General Recommendations

- Reapply PAM to disturbed or tilled areas, including high traffic use areas.
- Monitor advanced phases of the irrigation to ensure applications are discontinued when runoff begins.
- Operate and maintain equipment to allow uniform application rates.
- Maintain screens and filtering facilities.
- Clean all PAM mixing and application equipment thoroughly with water to avoid the formation of PAM residues.
- When working with PAM, take proper precautions to protect workers and observers from the detriments of inhaling the

product. Follow the instructions listed with the product.

- For sprinkler systems, flush injection equipment (PAM injection pump, tubing, valves, etc.) with crop oil before and after injecting concentrated liquid PAM (30 to 50 percent active ingredient). Crop oil provides a buffer between PAM and water so non-flowing PAM does not contact water and form a gelatinous mass that can plug valves and tubing.
- For sprinkler injection, the PAM injection pump should be started after water is flowing in the sprinkler system. To flush PAM from sprinklers, stop the injection pump before the irrigation pump stops.

Specific Recommendations

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