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TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #162 (electronic)

Purpose: To transmit information on the removal/revision of Michigan practice standard, Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management (780) for the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Effective Date: Immediately.

Filing Instructions:

FOTG Section IV

The May 6, 2002, National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Notice 128, issued a new practice standard, Wastewater Treatment Strip (635). This new national practice standard provides criteria for vegetated filter strips used to treat agricultural wastewater and runoff from livestock facilities. Since this new standard covers the same purposes as the current Michigan practice standard, Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management (780), the Michigan standard must be revised to be consistent with the new national standard. The new Wastewater Treatment Strip standard requires a filter strip design based on the 25-year, 24-hour storm. The design is to be based on one of three methods described in the EPA Technology Transfer Process Design Manual for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater. The current Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management standard uses a 2-year, 24-hour storm and a design method that is not consistent with the EPA design manual.

Michigan has been working with several other northern-tier states to determine how the new standard can be used in our states. After analyzing the new Wastewater Treatment Strip standard criteria and design methods, we have concluded that the resulting filter strips would not be practical, both economically and physically, for use in Michigan. The designs produce filter areas that are several times larger than the current standard, collection/storage of wastewater/runoff at both the beginning and end of the filter strip introduces additional costs, and the unacceptability of applying of wastewater/runoff when the mean temperature is below 32°F introduces additional storage costs. A clause in the new Wastewater Treatment Strip standard allows states to follow “other technically acceptable references” for design criteria. Because the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has water quality regulatory authority in Michigan, we are currently working with them to identify a “technically acceptable reference” that will produce filter strips designs that are both practical and economically feasible in Michigan. We have had some positive progress on this issue recently and hope to have an acceptable procedure in place within the first several months of FY2003.

DIST: All Holders of Field Office Technical Guide



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In an effort to maintain consistency for the EQIP application process in FY2002, we did not remove the Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management from the FOTG when the Wastewater Treatment Strip standard was issued. Therefore, EQIP contracts signed prior to September 30, 2002, that include the Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management practice may continue to use the current Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management practice standard for implementation designs.

However, since the Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management practice standard does not meet the criteria in the new Wastewater Treatment Strip standard, the Filter Strip-Animal Waste Management practice standard will need to be removed from the FOTG. Please remove effective October 1, 2002.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Reamer, Environmental Engineer, or Steve Davis, State Conservation Engineer.

/s/
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State Conservationist