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**TECHNICAL GUIDE  
NOTICE #290 (electronic)**

**Purpose:** To transmit information regarding the electronic NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

**Effective Date:** This notice is effective upon receipt.

**Notice of Changes**

**SECTION IV. Practice Standards and Specifications**

**Conservation Practice Standards**

Changes were made to several **engineering conservation practice standards (CPSs)** and their supporting documents (Statements of Work, and Operation and Maintenance Plans) in the Michigan FOTG: This included minor formatting changes, and aligning the Michigan CPSs to more closely follow the updated national conservation practice standards. Design 'instruction' language was removed. These instructions will instead be presented in various design guides for the CPSs.

**Diversion (Code 362)** – This CPS had minor updates to reflect changes in the national practice standard.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment (Code 520)** – This new CPS combines the existing compacted soil liner standards (521B, 521C, and 521D) into one CPS. As a result, a change to the title was necessary, along with other changes needed for clarification, consistency, and 508 compliance requirements.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Treatment (Code 521C)** – This CPS was deleted.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment (Code 521D)** – This CPS was deleted.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant (Code 521B)** – This CPS was deleted.

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**Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete (Code 522)** – This is a new CPS developed as an alternative practice for lining and sealing animal waste storage ponds and lagoons as needed. It covers concrete lining criteria currently found in Waste Storage Facility (Code 313) CPS.

**Saturated Buffer (Code 604)** – This is a new conservation practice standard. This practice is typically used with other practices and management systems to achieve a reduction in nitrate-nitrogen levels from field drainage systems.

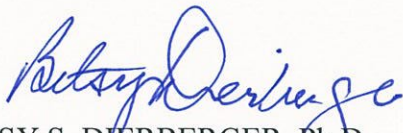
**Drainage Water Management (Code 554)** – This CPS had minor updates to reflect changes in the national practice standard..

**Waste Storage Facility (Code 313)** – This CPS was updated to reflect the current national practice standard. Structural design requirements were modified to account for changes in accepted concrete and timber design criteria. There was modification of language for storage requirements to improve clarity, and to conform to the Plain Language Act. There were improvements to the safety criteria, changing the requirement of a staff gauge to be required. Concrete liner criteria has been removed and is now located in the new 522-Pond Sealing or Lining- Concrete practice standard.

**Grassed Waterway (Code 412)**– The CPS was updated to reflect the current national practice standard. Allowable velocities were removed from stability criteria. Reference to EFH, Part 650, Chapter 7, Grassed Waterways or Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Agricultural Handbook 667, Stability Design of Grass-Lined Open Channels remains. Allowable width increased to less than 100 feet from 50 feet.

Technical questions on the engineering conservation practice standards should be addressed to Richard Woodford, State Conservation Engineer, at (517) 324-5232 or [richard.woodford@mi.usda.gov](mailto:richard.woodford@mi.usda.gov).

Questions regarding Field Office Technical Guide should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239 or [ruth.shaffer@mi.usda.gov](mailto:ruth.shaffer@mi.usda.gov).



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