

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**

**ANIONIC POLYACRYLAMIDE (PAM) EROSION CONTROL  
CODE 450**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Job Location \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T. \_\_\_\_\_ R. \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERVIEW**

A properly operated and maintained PAM application system is an asset to the farm. This PAM application system was designed and installed to apply irrigation water, at an increased distribution uniformity, to meet the water requirements of the crops and conserve water. The estimated life span of this installation is approximately one irrigation season. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop an effective operation and maintenance program.

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- All equipment will be operated and maintained to provide the uniform application rates as listed in the standard or on the Practice Requirements Sheet.
- Monitor the irrigation and discontinue applying PAM when the advance phase has been completed with no sufficient soil movement.
- Check to make sure all discharge devices, injectors, valves, timers, etc. are functional and set at the proper operating condition.
- Maintain all screens, filters, valves, timers and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following manufacturer's recommendations.
- Reapply PAM to disturbed or tilled areas, including high traffic use areas.
- Do not over apply PAM. Excessive application of PAM can lower infiltration rate or suspend solids in water, rather than promote settling.
- PAM is a flocculating agent that may cause deposition in downstream watercourses or other locations when it comes in contact with sediment-laden waters. Downstream deposition from the use of PAM may require periodic cleaning to maintain normal functions.
- Safety precautions as listed on the label, and industry guidelines shall be followed. PAM dust can cause choking and difficult breathing. A mask shall be used by persons handling and mixing PAM.
- Anionic PAM mixtures combined with water are very slippery and can be a safety hazard. Care must be taken to prevent spills of anionic PAM onto paved surfaces.
- All equipment used to mix and to apply PAM shall be rinsed thoroughly with water to avoid formation of intractable PAM residues.
- Purchase only the amount of PAM needed for a given growing season, as full potency shelf-life is only about one year. Some loss of effectiveness may be noted when using PAM that is more than one year old.

