

PART 505 - NON-NRCS ENGINEERING SERVICES
SUBPART B – USE OF NON-NRCS ENGINEERING SERVICES

§NE505.10 Nonproject activities.

(a) Non-NRCS Engineering Services

(2)(i) Jobs with a large commitment of staff time should be of interest to non-NRCS engineering services sources. Individuals or groups considering projects of this magnitude will be strongly encouraged to employ qualified private engineers. Private engineers will be used for all recreation facilities except those dealing with the problem of conservation of soil and water or related resources. See §NE500.00(c)(1)(iv) for limitations on technical assistance.

(b) Technical Services

(1) Technical services provided by non-NRCS sources may be used to the advantage of the agency at Nebraska locations with a heavy workload. These non-NRCS sources include conservation contractors.

(i) Technical services may be accepted from conservation contractors and used as supporting documentation to certify that a practice meets NRCS specifications. However, these technical services must be reviewed and approved by NRCS before the practice in question is certified as complete.

(ii) Technical services that can be accepted from conservation contractors include:

- a) construction checkout surveys
- b) construction stakeout surveys
- c) design surveys (needed to design practice)
- d) design

(iii) Technical services do not include any items of work which are a part of the conservation planning process.

(2) Review & approval procedure for technical services provided by non-NRCS sources:

(i) NRCS is technically responsible for all practices. This includes certifying to all cost sharing agencies that construction has been completed according to NRCS specifications. Non-NRCS sources do not have job approval authority.

(ii) Conservation contractors or other technical service providers are strongly encouraged, but not required to attend any formal, organized training prior to NRCS accepting their technical services as documentation. However, the technical service providers need an adequate level of competency before their technical services will be accepted by NRCS.

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(iii) The acceptable level of competency will be established by the Field Engineer, using guidelines provided by the State Conservation Engineer. The District Conservationist will make the determination that the quality of technical services provided meets the established level of competency with the concurrence of the Field Engineer.

(iv) Technical services submitted by conservation contractors must be checked and approved by an NRCS employee with proper job approval authority.

(v) Before construction is allowed to start, NRCS personnel will approve preliminary surveys and designs provided by technical providers.

(vi) Checkout surveys provided by conservation contractors will be reviewed and approved by Field Office personnel before a practice is certified to the cost-sharing agency.

(4) Quality reviews procedure:

(i) Each conservation contractor who provides technical services in connection with a completed practice must have at least one job completely checked each year by the Field Office staff. All phases of the job must be checked, not just construction. If necessary, more than one job may need to be checked to determine the quality of technical services provided.

(ii) (Reserved)

(iii) The Field Engineers and Civil Engineering Technicians will monitor the Field Office records to ensure that technical services accepted and approved are from competent conservation contractors and that substandard work is not accepted and certified.

(iv) The State Office Engineering Staff will provide guidance to the Field Engineers on quality reviews and files.

(5) Procedures for deficient technical services submitted by conservation contractors:

(i) In case of deficient technical services submitted by a conservation contractor, the Field Office staff shall notify the contractor as soon as possible. The notification should contain instructions for correcting the deficiencies.

(ii) In the event of repeated deficiencies by the same contractor, the notification shall be in writing. If deficiencies persist, the contractor will be informed that his/her technical services will no longer be accepted for documentation.