

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

PUMPING PLANT

(No.)

CODE 533

DEFINITION

A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump(s), associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy source(s), and protective structures.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to achieve one or more of the following purposes:

Delivery of water for irrigation, watering facilities, wetlands, or fire protection

Removal of excessive subsurface or surface water

Provide efficient use of water on irrigated land

Transfer of animal waste as part of a manure transfer system

Improvement of air quality

Reduce energy use

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies where conservation objectives require the addition of energy to pressurize and transfer water to maintain critical water levels in soils, wetlands, or reservoirs; transfer wastewater; or remove surface runoff or groundwater.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Design, installation, and operation of a pumping plant shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations.

The efficiency of units, type of power, quality of building, automation features, and other accessories installed shall be in keeping with the economic and environmental value of the system to accomplish the conservation objectives.

Criteria for the design of components not addressed in NRCS practice standards shall be consistent with sound engineering principles.

Pump Requirements. Design flow rate, range of operating heads, and pump type shall meet the requirements of the application.

Size and number of pumps and their performance shall be determined on the basis of system conservation requirements in order to meet the intended purpose. Total head shall be determined for critical operating conditions, taking into account all hydraulic losses. Automatic controls shall be included as required.

Selection of pump materials shall be based on the physical and chemical qualities of the material being pumped and manufacturer's recommendations.

Power Units. Pump power units shall be selected based on the availability and cost of power, operating conditions, need for automation, and other site specific objectives. Power units shall match the pump requirements and be capable of operating efficiently and effectively within the planned range of conditions. The power unit shall be sized to meet the horsepower requirements of the pump, including efficiency, service factor, and environmental conditions.

Electric power units may include line power, photovoltaic panels, and wind or water powered turbines.

Electrical wiring shall meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code.

Renewable energy power units shall meet applicable design criteria in NRCS and/or industry standards, and shall be in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Variable Frequency Drives. The owner shall inform the electric power provider that a Variable Frequency Drive will be installed prior to installation, and be responsible for following requirements of the electric power provider.

The Variable Frequency Drive shall be protected against overheating.

The Variable Frequency Drive control panel shall provide the read out display of flow rate or pressure.

Photovoltaic Panels. The photovoltaic array shall be sized based on average data for the location and the time of year pumping occurs, according to manufacturer's recommendations. The photovoltaic array shall provide the power necessary to operate the pump at the design flow rate, with the appropriate service factor considering a minimum panel degradation of 10 years. Fixed arrays shall be oriented to receive maximum sunlight. Panel tilt angle shall be based on the location latitude and time

of year for power requirements. Panels shall be mounted securely to resist movement by environmental factors.

Windmills. Pumping units shall be sized according to pumping lifts and capacities, as specified by the manufacturer. The diameter of the mill shall be based on the stroke length and the average wind speed. Towers shall be proportioned to the mill diameter, with adequate height for efficient and safe operation.

Water Powered Pumps (Hydraulic Rams). Pumping units shall be sized according to flow rate, lift, fall, and efficiency. Bypass water shall be returned to the stream or storage facility, without erosion or impairment to water quality.

Suction and Discharge Pipes. To prevent cavitation, suction and discharge pipes shall be designed to account for suction lift, net positive suction head, pipe diameter and length, minor losses, temperature, and altitude. The size of suction and discharge pipes shall be based on hydraulic analysis, operating costs, and compatibility with other system components. The arrangement and length of discharge pipe shall be based on the need for recovery of head through siphoning action, and for delivery of water in keeping with conservation and environmental objectives.

Appurtenances such as gate valves, check valves, pressure reducing valves, pressure gages, pipe connections, and other protective devices, shall be included to meet the requirements of the application.

Screens, filters, trash racks, or other devices shall be installed as needed to prevent the intake of sand, gravel, debris, or other objectionable material into the pump. Intake screens shall be designed according to applicable Federal and State guidelines, to avoid entrainment or trapping of aquatic organisms.

Backflow prevention devices shall be included according to Federal, State, and

Local laws, to prevent contamination of water sources connected to the pumping plant.

Buildings and Accessories. Land based pumps shall be securely mounted on a solid foundation such as pilings or concrete. Foundations shall be designed to safely support the loads imposed by the pumping plant and appurtenances. Sheet piling or other measures shall be used, as required, to prevent piping beneath the foundation.

Water based pumps shall be securely mounted to a floating foundation such as a pontoon. The floating foundation shall be securely fastened to a structure on land to prevent loss of the pump downstream or easy removal off the property.

Where buildings are necessary to protect the pumping plant, provisions shall be included for adequate ventilation and accessibility for equipment maintenance, repairs, or removal.

Suction bays or sumps shall be designed to prevent the introduction of air at the intake.

The discharge bay or the connection to the distribution system shall meet all hydraulic and structural requirements. Provisions for repair or removal of pumps and engines shall be provided. Trash racks shall be provided, as needed, to exclude debris and trash from the pump.

Structures and equipment shall be designed to provide adequate safety features to protect operators, workers, and the public from potential injury. Drive shaft covers shall be required on all exposed rotating shafts.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Providing the Efficient Use of Water on Irrigated Land

Provisions for the connection of flow and pressure measurement devices shall be included in power plant system design.

Additional Criteria Applicable to the Improvement of Air Quality

Replacement pumping plants shall have lower total emissions of oxides of nitrogen and fine particulate matter, compared to the unit being replaced.

New, replacement, or retrofitted pumping equipment shall utilize a non-combustion power source, or cleaner-burning technologies or fuels.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Reduce Energy Use

For fossil fuel or electrical grid power sources, pumping plant installations shall meet or exceed the Nebraska Pumping Plant Performance Criteria, if applicable. Refer to NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 652, National Irrigation Guide, Table 12-2.

CONSIDERATIONS

When planning this practice, the following should be considered as applicable:

The removal of surface water by a pumping plant can affect downstream flows or aquifer recharge volumes. Consider the potential long term impacts downstream of the pumping plant.

If using a pumping plant to remove surface water or ground water flowing into a wetland, consider the potential impacts on existing wetland hydrology.

The operation and maintenance of a pumping plant can involve the use of fuels and lubricants that when spilled may adversely affect surface or ground water quality. Consider measures to protect the environment from potential spills. In some cases, secondary containment of spilled fuel may be required by Federal and State laws or regulations.

Pumping plants are often constructed in flood-prone areas or can be subject to other unexpected natural events. Consider how the pumping plant may be protected from extreme natural events

and the consequences of damage or failure.

Include protective sensors to detect low or stopped flow, or pressures that are too high or too low.

The visual appearance of buildings or structures associated with the pumping plant should be compatible with the surrounding environment.

When installing new or replacing existing combustion equipment, non-combustion and renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and water, should be considered.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing pumping plants shall be in accordance with this standard and describe the requirements for properly installing the practice to achieve its intended purpose. As a minimum, the plans and specifications shall include the following:

A plan view showing the location of the pumping plant in relationship to other structures or natural features.

Detail drawings of the pumping plant and appurtenances, such as piping, inlet and outlet connections, mounting, foundations, and other structural components.

Written specifications that describe the site specific details of installation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An Operation and Maintenance plan specific to the pumping plant being installed shall be prepared for use by the owner and responsible operator. The plan shall provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining facilities to ensure the pumping plant functions properly as designed. As a minimum, the plan shall address the following:

Inspection or testing of all pumping plant components and appurtenances.

Proper start-up and shut-down procedures for the operation of the pumping plant.

Routine maintenance of all mechanical components (power unit, pump, drive train, etc.) in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Procedures to protect the system from damage due to freezing temperatures.

When applicable, procedures to frequently check the power unit, fuel storage facilities, and fuel lines, for leaks and repair as needed.

Periodic checks and removal of debris as necessary from trash racks and structures, to assure adequate flow capacity reaching the pumping plant intake.

Periodic removal of sediment in suction bays, to maintain design capacity and efficiency.

Inspection and maintenance of anti-siphon devices, if applicable.

Routine test and inspection of all automated components of the pumping plant, to assure the proper functioning as designed.

Inspection and maintenance of secondary containment facilities, if applicable.

Periodic inspection of all safety features, to ensure proper placement and function.

Prior to retrofitting any electrically powered equipment, electrical service must be disconnected and the absence of stray electrical current verified.

REFERENCES

USDA-NRCS, National Engineering Handbook, Part 652, National Irrigation Guide.