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TO: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

December 14, 2005

VERMONT TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 29

PURPOSE: Revisions and Additions of References to the Field Office Tech Guide

EXPIRATION DATE: Upon Receipt

BACKGROUND:

The following references have been revised or added to the Field Office Tech Guide.

1. **Revised** Section IV-C-1, Steps to Using Technical Service Providers.
2. **Revised** Section IV-C-2, General Requirements for Use of a Private TSP.
3. **Delete** Section IV-C-3, TSP Warranty of Technical Services
4. **Revised** Section IV-C-4, Cover Sheet for NRCS Use and **Renumber** to Section IV-C-3.
5. **Revised** the following Standards:

313 – Waste Storage Facility – Soil liner was removed from the design criteria and referred to New Standard 521D- Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment. Also, the wind and snow load shall now be based on ASCE 7-02, “Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures”. ASAE EP288.5, “Agricultural Building Snow and Wind Loads” is no longer a valid reference.

332 – Contour Buffer Strips – Mowing date has been changed.

359 – Waste Treatment Lagoon - Soil liner was removed from the design criteria and referred to New Standard 521D- Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment.

360 – Closure of Waste Impoundments – No major changes.

521D – Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment – This is a new standard. All design criteria for soil liners has been moved to this standard.

561 – Heavy Use Area Protection – Roofing was added to the design criteria. Wind and Snow loads for Roofed Heavy Use Area Protection shall be based on ASCE 7-02, “Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures”. Also, fiber mesh has been removed from this standard as a substitute for reinforcing steel. Unreinforced concrete can be used for concrete barnyards provided that control joints are installed at 10’ o.c. Control joints are required for reinforced (10 ga. WWF) concrete at 30’ o.c.

575 – Animal Trails and Walkways – No Major Changes

642 – Water Well – New Standard

346 – Residue Management, Ridge Till - National standard shall be adopted in lieu of the Vermont Standard.

344 – Residue Management, Seasonal - National standard shall be adopted in lieu of the Vermont Standard.

329 – Residue Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed – Code has changed from 329A to 329. National standard shall be adopted in lieu of the Vermont Standard.

345 – Residue Management, Mulch Till – Code has changed from 329B to 345. National standard shall be adopted in lieu of the Vermont Standard.

6. **Add** the following Job Sheets to the respective conservation Practice folder in Section IV of the FOTG:

- 643 - Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats
- 585 - Stripcropping
- 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting
- 484 - Mulching
- 472 - Use Exclusion
- 380 - Windbreak / Shelterbelt Establishment
- 344 - Residue Management, Seasonal
- 342 - Critical Area Planting
- 332 - Contour Buffer Strips
- 393 - Filter Strip
- 422 - Hedgerow Planting
- 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

When using these job sheets, be sure to use the current version since minor changes have been made to earlier draft versions which were sent out for review (512 and 643).

7. **Update** Section IV-Tools Vermont Grazing Plan Excel Worksheet. The new tool provides a format for documenting a final grazing plan as well as determining grazing paddock sizes and acres. This grazing tool will be updated as necessary so always access the most recent version of the tool from the download site at:

ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VT/Technical/Planning_Tools/Grazing/VT_GrazingPlan.xlt

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

These changes have already been made in eFOTG. If you are still maintaining a hard copy of the FOTG, please make the appropriate copies and file accordingly. Please note that the National Engineering Handbook, Engineering Field Handbook, and the Agricultural Waste Management Handbook do not include the Vermont Supplements. Discard all old copies. If you have any questions regarding this notice please feel free to call me.

/s/ Jim Wood
Vermont State Resource Conservationist

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