

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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June 3, 2002

**NATIONAL ENGINEERING MANUAL (Second Edition)
210-V, AMENDMENT IL-22**

Subject: Engineering - Authorizations

Purpose: To distribute new Illinois supplements to Part 501 of the NEM.

Effective Date: This supplement is effective upon receipt.

Explanation: Illinois supplements to Parts 501 and 505 of the National Engineering Manual are revised to reflect the current NRCS organization in Illinois, to update IL-ENG 35a form and to re-emphasize the importance of NRCS employees working within the scope of their employment. Please note new forms IL ENG 16A and 16B.

This notice is to remind employees of the importance of operating within their assigned Engineering Job Approval Authority.

It is illegal to practice engineering in the State of Illinois without possessing a current Professional Engineer license. Federal employees, acting within the scope of their employment are generally exempted from this requirement of Illinois law. This exemption only applies to federal employees and implies recognition from the State of Illinois that federal units of government may have professional employees, not licensed P.E.'s, who have demonstrated ability to practice engineering. Federal employees may be granted Engineering Job Approval Authority at a level high enough to appear to be the practice of engineering. Non-federal employees must not be assigned Engineering Job Approval high enough that it appears to the general public that they are approved to practice engineering. Non-federal employees will, generally, not be granted EJAA above job class III, IL-ENG-35.

Engineering Job Approval Authority is granted to employees, based on demonstrated ability. This process exists for at least two reasons:

1. As a quality control to help ensure that conservation practices which appear to require the practice of engineering to design and install meet all applicable state and federal standards, and
2. To help protect federal employees from tort claims by documenting acceptable job responsibilities as part of the scope of their employment.

Illinois supplements to the National Engineering Manual require that NRCS employees may not commit the NRCS to provide technical assistance for work which exceeds their Engineering Job Approval Authority. Each IL-NRCS employee must understand that to recommend or sign off on work that exceeds their EJA is a violation of policy and may be interpreted as working outside of the scope of one's employment.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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It is the responsibility of NRCS line officers to document that staffs in field offices have adequate technical skills to address most of the workload in the counties they service. Field Office District specialists exist to assist field offices with conservation practices planning, design and implementation, especially when the size or complexity of those practices exceeds the demonstrated ability of the field office staff. However, most jobs for which a field office is responsible must be completed by the field office staff. All NRCS employees in Illinois are to work with their supervisor to determine the level of EJA they require to service the workload at their location. In addition they are to update their Individual Development Plan to document the processes they intend to implement to reach the determined level of Engineering Job Approval Authority.

Filing Instructions:

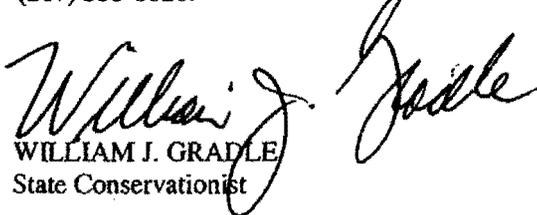
Remove the following pages from Part 501 of the NEM.

- IL 501 - 2(1) thru 2(6)
- IL 501 - 10(1) thru 10(8)
- IL501 - 12(1) thru 12(6)
- IL 505 - 2(1)

Insert the following pages, dated April 2002 into Part 501 of the NEM

- IL 501 - 2(1) thru 2(5)
- IL 501 - 10(1) thru 10(8)
- IL 501 - 12(1) thru 12(6)
- IL 505 - 2(1) thru 2(3)

Any questions regarding this transmittal should be directed to Jim Evans, State Conservation Engineer at (217) 353-6626.


WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: O
Midwest SCE's
Regional Office

je:amend il 22.doc

2(1) & 2(2) ← are void they were replaced by IL-29