

Part 503 - Safety

Subpart A – Engineering Activities Affecting Utilities

MN503.2 General considerations

E. NRCS Minnesota procedure.

- (1) A warning statement as follows shall be placed on all engineering plans:

“State law and NRCS policy require that the excavator contact Gopher State One Call at (800) 252-1166 for utility locations 48 hours prior to the start of excavation work.”

Note: Previous warning statement wording is acceptable also.

- (2) If subsurface investigations or construction of any work will be carried out with NRCS assistance, or under a contribution agreement, worksheet MN-ENG-098, “Utility Notice” must be sent or delivered to all affected landowners/operators or sponsors. The landowners/operators or sponsors are to provide the requested information, sign the worksheet, and return Part 1 to the field office. Part 2 shall be forwarded to the excavator for timely completion and submission to the field office. The completed worksheet must be returned before subsurface investigations or construction can begin. A copy of the signed worksheet shall be retained in the case file.
- (3) When a project has technical assistance provided by a private sector Technical Service Provider, the use of MN-ENG-098 is not required. In that case, the statement in MN503.02 E(1) on the drawings is the minimum requirement beyond what is required by state law.

MN503.4 Buried utilities

- A. MN-ENG-098 must be used in Minnesota on projects with NRCS technical assistance, or under contribution agreements. (1) The landowner/operator or sponsor is to provide the information and take the actions as listed on Part 1 of the worksheet. (2) The excavator shall provide the ticket number to the NRCS. (3) The NRCS will print the ticket information from the Gopher State One Call website. The completed MN-ENG-098 and the ticket information will be retained in the NRCS file.

Note: Form MN-ENG-098 is not required for projects utilizing Technical Service Providers, although the warning statement in MN503.02 E(1) is required.

MN503.5 Documentation

Worksheet MN-ENG-098 shall be used as the checklist. The checklist on the reverse side of Part 1 shall be completed for any work involving a buried utility performed with NRCS technical assistance or under a contribution agreement.

MN503.6 State laws

A. Notification

- (1) Notification of utilities shall be made through the Gopher State One Call system as mandated by Minnesota Statute, Chapter 216D. The Gopher State One Call Excavators Handbook is available online at <http://www.gopherstateonecall.org>.
- (2) The excavator is required to notify GSOC at least 48 hours prior to any excavation and will be held responsible for any damages to utilities if such notice is not given. The excavator is

the person who actually performs the construction, soil boring, or other excavation activity and can be the contractor, the landowner, or an NRCS or state employee.

B. Color Codes

Minnesota State Statutes, Chapter 216D, specifies color codes for use in marking utilities, proposed excavations and for surveying purposes. Fluorescent pink and white are the colors designated for surveying purposes and proposed excavations. These are the colors that must be used in Minnesota for marking work in areas where excavation activities will be performed.

UTILITY NOTICE

(NRCS copy)

PART 1

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Pipelines, electric lines, telephone wires, and other utilities can be damaged by digging or construction work. Any contact with above-ground or buried utilities poses a hazard to life and property. You should take action to prevent personal injuries and damage to utilities from accidental contact.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation of the existence or non-existence of utilities. The absence of utilities on drawings does not assure that there are no utilities on the site.

Fill in the information below, sign and return this sheet to our office in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Forward the attached form to your excavator (if other than NRCS) for their information. Subsurface investigation or construction cannot begin until the ticket number is verified through the Gopher State One Call (GSOC) web site.

NRCS Representative

Are there any above-ground utilities in or close to the area where the conservation work will be done?

No ___ Yes ___ Type of Utility & Company _____

Are there any known buried utilities in or close to the area where the conservation work will be done?

No ___ Yes ___ Don't Know ___ Type of Utility & Company _____

I understand that no subsurface exploration or construction will be carried out under NRCS programs until 48 hours after GSOC is notified. A ticket number must be provided to NRCS for verification.

Owner/Operator/Sponsor Signature

Date

NRCS Checklist

1. Known utility locations and GSOC statement shown on Plans? Yes _____ No _____
2. GSOC Ticket number that was provided by excavator: _____
3. Ticket number verified on GSOC web site and printout filed? Yes _____ No _____

UTILITY NOTICE
(Excavator copy)

PART 2

Project Name: _____

Cooperator: _____

Location: _____

Excavator: _____

Before any excavation is done it is the excavator's responsibility to do the following:

1. Notify the Gopher State One-Call (GSOC) office at least 48 hours before excavation begins and give the required information on the type, location, and planned date and time of excavation.
2. Request the ticket number and that an employee of all directly affected utilities be present during construction within the utility right-of-way.
3. GSOC Ticket Number: _____
4. Provide the GSOC Ticket number to the NRCS. NRCS contact information:

Note: NRCS cannot provide assistance during construction until GSOC ticket number is submitted and verified.

Part 503 Safety

Subpart B – Public Safety at Structure Sites

MN503.10 General

Confined Spaces. Certain structures that the NRCS provides technical assistance on are classified as "Confined Spaces" by Department of Labor and Industry Rules. These rules contain specific requirements that must be met before a person enters a confined space. Generally all catch basins, sumps, reception pits, covered tanks, etc, that the NRCS designs are considered confined spaces. It is generally known that manure in these structures can produce dangerous gases; however, even dry structures or those with only clean water can also develop dangerous air conditions. These conditions can develop quickly and may even occur during construction.

1. During the design of structures that may be considered confined spaces, fencing, suitable covers or other means shall be specified in the plans to protect those areas from unauthorized entry. The planned measures shall be in place prior to certification by the NRCS.
2. Where a structure is included in a plan that meets the criteria for a confined space, an appropriate warning statement shall be included in the operation and maintenance plan.
3. Where a sump is included in a design, flexible discharge hoses, guide rails with flange connections, or other mechanical methods shall be utilized to eliminate the need for sump entry for normal pump maintenance.
4. NRCS employees shall not enter a confined space for construction inspection or any other purpose without proper authorization. All requests for authorization to enter confined spaces shall be submitted to the state conservation engineer.