

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) GUIDANCE

The following guidelines have been developed to provide consistency throughout the state for NRCS technical assistance required under the Emergency Conservation Program. All previous guidance and procedures are no longer valid.

PONDS

- (1) All pond renovation shall have an updated hazard classification. NRCS Hazard Classifications for ECP ponds shall follow the same method and procedures as classifications for other programs (See attached hazard classification (procedures)).
- (2) NRCS employees providing technical assistance shall operate within their current job approval authority.
- (3) All Job Class V ponds shall be reviewed by the State Office Engineering Staff.
- (4) NRCS will do an on-site visit to every structure determined by FSA to be eligible under provisions of 1-ECP and for which an AD-862 has been generated. The purpose of the initial visit will be to gather pertinent site information to estimate quantities, complete a cost estimate (use EQIP cost list) and properly classify the structure as one of the following:
 - Class A – No downstream hazards exist
 - Class B or C – Potential downstream hazard
- (5) Procedure by NRCS Hazard Class:

For ponds that are within the limits of Conservation Practice Standard Pond 378 (Class A), NRCS will estimate the necessary work to return the pond to pre-disaster condition. Listed below are the criteria to meet the Pond 378 standard:

- Failure of the dam will not result in loss of life; damage to homes, commercial or industrial buildings, main highways, or railroads; or in interruption of the use or service of public utilities.

- The product of the storage times the effective height of the dam is less than 3,000. Storage is the volume, in acre-feet, in the reservoir below the elevation of the crest of the auxiliary spillway. The effective height of the dam is the difference in elevation, in feet, between the auxiliary spillway crest and the lowest point in the cross section taken along the centerline of the dam. If there is no auxiliary spillway, the top of the dam is the upper limit.
- The effective height of the dam is 35 feet or less.

If any of the above criteria are exceeded, the pond will fall into the TR 60 size ponds.

For TR 60 size ponds (ponds that exceed the 378 pond standard), the applicant will need to contract with a private engineer who will make the necessary recommendations, at the producer's expense, to build the structure back to NRCS criteria. The reconstruction of the structure will be eligible for ECP cost share. NRCS will not supervise construction of any ponds that fall outside pond standard 378. The private engineer that designed the structure shall provide quality control and construction supervision to ensure the structure is constructed to NRCS standards and specifications. NRCS will certify construction is complete.

Note: ECP cost share is not authorized to pay for the fee of the private engineer. In these cases the cost to build the structure back to specifications could be excessive. ECP cost share requires these structures built to specs.

- (6) For ponds that do meet the Class A ponds and Practice Standard 378, Pond, criteria NRCS will provide technical assistance to restore the pond to pre-disaster conditions with the following guidance:
- the emergency spillway can be widened if earth fill is needed to repair damaged parts of the dam.
 - The quantity of earth fill placed will be limited to the volume needed to restore the structure to pre-disaster conditions, unless the landowner wishes to pay for additional fill to raise the top of dam elevation above the pre-disaster elevation.
 - If the pond pipe has been damaged, it will be replaced with a pipe of equal capacity, unless the landowner wishes to pay for the added expense of a larger pipe.
 - Cost-share will only be provided for installing a pipe of equal capacity to the original pipe. In the case where there was no pipe at all and there is a drainage area for the pond, cost-share will be

paid to put in a new pipe for safety purposes. If the original pipe was not functioning and cannot be made to function, cost share will be paid for a new pipe.

- (7) Class A ponds that are rebuilt to pre-storm conditions may not meet current NRCS pond 378 standards and specifications. The landowner and FSA will be notified in writing that even after repairs the pond still will **NOT** meet NRCS standards and specifications. NRCS may recommend components of the pond be improved and upgraded to meet current NRCS standards and specifications at the landowner's expense.

FIELD WASHES vs GULLIES

NRCS will determine whether to use grading and shaping costs per square foot (FT²) or earthmoving costs per cubic yard (YD³). As a rule of thumb, an area where concentrated flow has washed out more than 1 vertical foot will be treated as a gully and quantities will be calculated in cubic yards (YD³). All other washes will use the grading and shaping costs. Typically, farm equipment can be utilized to repair washes.

WELLS

During drought conditions, ECP can fund the drilling of wells. Wells shall meet current Georgia state law and current NRCS standards. This will require all wells be curbed at the surface with concrete at least four inches thick and extending two feet in all directions from the well casing. ECP wells are intended for agricultural uses and shall not be used for human consumption, except in emergency situations.

When troughs are installed in conjunction with the well and cost share is provided for the troughs through ECP, the trough will meet the requirements of NRCS CPS 614, Watering Facility, and a heavy use area will be installed around the trough that meets the requirements of NRCS CPS 561, Heavy Use Area Protection.

If no cost share is provided for the troughs or an existing trough is connected to the new well, the trough is not required to meet the 614 and 561 standards.

FENCING

Fencing will be replaced to predisaster conditions regardless of whether it meets NRCS standards. NRCS may recommend components of the fence be improved and upgraded to meet current NRCS standards and specifications at the landowner's expense.

SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Accumulated sediment on agricultural land deposited from out of bank stream flow can be removed under ECP. Sediment shall be removed and placed in an area outside of the flood plain. All disturbed areas shall be vegetated according to NRCS standards and specifications.

IMMEDIATE HAZARDS

For immediate hazards, a landowner may be required to repair a structure or fence prior to NRCS and FSA approval. A waiver must be granted by FSA before NRCS will make a site visit and provide any technical assistance.

FSA should inform NRCS when a waiver is granted to begin work before an 862 is issued. NRCS should be informed in a timely manner to allow servicing of the 862 before work begins.

However, if the producer begins work prior to NRCS receiving the 862, NRCS **WILL NOT** estimate work accomplished prior to their site visit. In this instance, the producer will need to submit an itemized bill from the contractor showing quantities installed. FSA will use the producer's bills for payment quantities and NRCS **WILL** certify construction is complete to pre storm conditions.

This work performed by the applicant, unless a waiver is granted, could result in the structure being ineligible for ECP cost share.

DOCUMENTATION

NRCS staff will complete the 862 form as part of servicing the cost share application. NRCS will also complete the Extent Needed (quantity estimate) section of FSA's EC-2 and EC-4 Onsite Inspection and Repair Worksheet (copy attached) as supporting documentation for the 862.

HAZARD CLASSIFICATION OF NRCS STRUCTURES

April 2005

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Hazard Classification

NEM Section 520.21

Dams are classified according to the potential hazard to life and property if the dam should suddenly breach or fail.

April 2005

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (c)--Dams where failure may cause loss of life or serious damage to homes, industrial and commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways, or railroads.

Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (b)--Dams in predominantly rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage isolated homes, main highways, or minor railroads or interrupt service of relatively important public utilities.

Ponds



Hazard Classification

Class (a)--Dams in rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage farm buildings, agricultural land, or township and country roads.

WHAT IS A COUNTRY ROAD????

April 2005

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

NRCS policy provides no detailed clarification defining country roads, main highways or minor railroads. The decision is left up to each State Conservation Engineer to interpret and determine the appropriate definition acceptable within the state.

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

IN GEORGIA:

A COUNTRY ROAD IS:

- 1. An unpaved private or county maintained road.**
- 2. NOT utilized as a school bus route or for emergency services.**
- 3. Traveled infrequently (Less than 20 cars/day).**

If any of these conditions are not met, the road would not be considered a country road.

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Ponds



Hazard Classification

PRELIMINARY RULE OF THUMB FOR HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES:

- 1. Houses or commercial buildings within 1 mile downstream of the dam that have finished floor levels less than 4/5 of the estimated overall dam height above the floodplain – PROBABLE Hazard B or C.**
- 2. Houses or commercial buildings between 1 and 2 miles downstream of the dam that have finished floor levels less than 2/5 of the estimated overall dam height above the floodplain – PROBABLE Hazard B or C.**

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PRELIMINARY RULES OF THUMB FOR ROADS:

1. Road less than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream – PROBABLE Hazard B.
2. Road $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to 2 miles downstream – POTENTIAL Hazard B.
3. Road greater than 2 miles downstream – PROBABLE Hazard A.

NEM Section 520.22 - Design criteria.

- (a) Class (a) earth dams with a product of storage times the effective height of the dam of less than 3,000 and with an effective height of the dam of 35 feet or less are to meet or exceed the requirements of Practice Standard 378, Pond (NHCP).***
- (b) Class (a) earth dams whose product of storage times the effective height of the dam is 3,000 or more; those more than 35 feet in effective height; and all Class (b) and (c) dams are to meet or exceed the requirements of Technical Release No. 60.***

-- EC2 & EC4 ON-SITE INSPECTION AND REPAIR WORKSHEET --

Farm No. _____

Tract No. _____

County _____

<u>Component Description</u>	<u>Extent Needed</u>	<u>C/S Rate Per Unit 75%</u>	<u>C/S Approved</u>	<u>Extent Performed</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>	<u>C/S 1/ Earned</u>
<u>IMPOUNDMENT STRUCTURES, TERRACES, WATERWAYS, AND GULLIES</u>						
Earthmoving	_____ cu.yd.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Grading, Shaping, & Releveling (Same as Obstruction Removal in EQIP)	_____ sq.ft. (per 1,000 sq.ft.)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clearing	_____ sq.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Re-establish terraces	_____ Lin.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sod Waterways	_____ Acres	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Critical Area Planting	_____ sq.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of pipe: PVC <input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/>						
Riser Pipe _____ in.Dia.	_____ Lin.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Conduit Pipe _____ in.Dia.	_____ Lin.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Drain Pipe _____ in.Dia.	_____ Lin.ft.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Riser Tee _____ in. X _____ in. X _____ in.	_____ Each	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Anti-Seep Collars	_____ Each	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trash Guard _____ in.Dia.	_____ Each	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sheet/Slide-Gate(with post) _____ in.Dia.	_____ Each	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Concrete	_____ cu.yd.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Riprap	_____ Tons	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL				_____	_____	_____

-- NRCS -- Signature _____ Date _____

-- Cost-share eligibility for ponds requires they be serving an "Agricultural" purpose such as irrigation, livestock water, or erosion control, as determined by NRCS. --

1/ To compute C/S earned: Compare 75% of actual cost for total practice with the C/S amount approved for total practice and pay the smaller amount.