



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Maine NRCS – State Technical Committee Meeting

**Overview - Proposed Procedure to Review Conservation
Practice Standards**

November 20, 2012

Background – Reviewing Conservation Practice Standards (CPS)

National CPS

- Each national CPS is formally reviewed at least once every 5 years
- Additions and revisions to the national CPS are posted on the Federal Register for a comment period not less than 30 days

State CPS

- States may **adopt** the national CPS and use in the State by adding the State name/abbreviation in the footer of the standard with no further review needed or
- States may **modify** the CPS, if a State modifies CPS, they need to use an established procedure for review and comment.

Current ME NRCS Procedure

- Adopted and modified CPS are posted for review (November 2004)
- Need to update the procedure to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe
- Need to update the procedure to designate the time period that comments are accepted

Proposed ME NRCS Procedure

- If Maine NRCS **adopts** a national CPS – no comment period needed
- Maine NRCS **modifies** a national CPS - Procedure - GM 450, SUBPART A, 401.1

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Click on the
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STEP 3

Using the drop
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STEP 4

Scroll down and
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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change.

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. [<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/>]

This agency has published 822 articles since 1994.

LISTING OF ALL RECENT ARTICLES

November 2012	Tuesday 06	<input type="radio"/>	Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Gulf Coast Pipeline Project
September 2012	Friday 07	<input type="radio"/>	Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide
July 2012	Thursday 12	<input type="radio"/>	Notice of Meeting of the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force

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Proposed Review Procedure



SUBPART A – POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ME401.1(c)(9)

401.1(c) State Conservationists and Directors of the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Area

(9)(a) All **significant** changes to Standards and Specifications in Section IV of the FOTG will be posted on the Maine NRCS Web page under a section titled, “Draft Standards and Specifications”. District Conservationists, Members of the Field Office Technical Guide Committee, Members of the State Technical Committee and ASTC for Programs in New Hampshire, State Historic Preservation Officer, **Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe** and the Penobscot Indian Nation’s Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will be notified that comments on draft Standards and Specifications are being solicited. Time period that comments are accepted will be **two weeks** time from the notice. The Discipline responsible for the Standard and Specification will collect comments on the proposed draft. The responsible discipline will forward the comments along with their suggested response and suggested adjustments to the Standard and Specification if appropriate to the State Resource Conservationist or State Conservation Engineer as appropriate. All comments will be addressed before issuing the revised Standard and Specification. Once the revised Standard and Specification is issued, each District Conservationist is responsible for reviewing changes in Standards and Specifications with the NRCS field office staff, SWCD Board and staff as appropriate.

Follow policy of publishing revisions of practice standards in the Federal Register (see GM Title 450 – Part 401 – Subpart Providing for Public Review and Comment of Section IV of the Technical Guide).

Recommendation from the State
Technical Committee to adopt the
new procedure for Reviewing
Conservation Practice Standards.