

Purpose: To provide employees statewide policy on the use and application of Conservation Practice Standard 366 – Anaerobic Digester, in accordance with the New Hampshire 2013 Financial Assistance Program Handbook for all financial assistance programs.

Effective Date: February 12, 2013 **Expiration Date: None**

Explanation: The following screening milestones must be met in order for an interested producer to advance from EQIP application to ranking. If milestones are substantially underway, the State Conservationist may waive this requirement.:

1. An economic feasibility study needs to be completed.
A feasibility study must be completed by a reputable consultant to determine if the digester system is economically feasible. Rural Development has a list of reputable consultants who can complete this study. Feasibility should include access and availability of three phase electric service.
2. Manure and Wastewater Handling Plan as part of approved CNMP including a schematic of the planned system needs to be completed;
This can be completed by an NRCS engineer, TSP, or by a consultant.
3. Any practices required to address water quality issues on the tract where the digester will be located will be included in the contract.
The installation of the anaerobic digester must not create any additional water quality resource concerns.
4. Conference has been held with potential funders (RD, NRCS, Lending Institution, & others) to delineate the EQIP role;
A conference must be conducted between RD, NRCS and the landowner in order to explain how the different programs work. Ideally, we would like to use both programs but that is not always possible. It is highly recommended that the lending institution also attend this meeting.
5. Funding plan that shows total costs and how EQIP dollars will fit into the mix, including identifying loan amounts and who the Lender will be, other potential and known grant dollars in the project, and applicant cash contribution if applicable.
NRCS requires a letter from the proposed lending institution indicating that they have reviewed the proposal from this project and it appears to be a viable and feasible project to make a loan on.
6. Site survey has been completed.
This can be conducted by NRCS or by a consultant.

7. Plan is in place for engineering and construction management.

Landowner has to have made a firm commitment as far as which digester system they intend to install, which company will be installing the digester system and which engineer firm will be designing and certifying construction of the digester system, if not provided by the digester company.

Note: The landowner will be responsible to hire an engineer to provide engineering plans for the entire project, not just the digester or those practices being cost shared. The engineer will certify on the plans with a New Hampshire PE stamp that the entire "system" is designed to all NRCS standards. Upon completion of construction, the same engineer will certify on the "as-built" plans with a PE stamp that the entire "system" was installed in accordance to NRCS standards. NRCS will not provide any technical assistance for any digester project, other than those services indicated above.

Questions regarding this process or related to engineering should be directed to the State Conservation Engineer, Jade Nield, at 603-868-9931 x112 or by e-mail: jade.nield@nh.usda.gov. Questions regarding this process or related to programs should be directed to the Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Jim Spielman, at 603-868-9931 x115 or by email: james.spielman@nh.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. P. Ellsmore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard P. Ellsmore
State Conservationist - New Hampshire