

## PART 510 - PLANNING

### WA510.1D. Scope

- (1) When a Landowner or Operator has requested financial assistance, NRCS provides technical assistance through the planning process to evaluate Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) headquarters (HQ) facilities (i.e., Dry Stack Slab, Waste Transfer, Waste Storage Pond (WSP), and Waste Storage Structure).
- (2) Specific assessment requirements are further outlined for the assessment of a facilities existing earthen waste storage pond(s) (WSPs).
- (3) A complete and demonstrated understanding and use of WA Engineering TN #23 is required as the basis of receiving engineering Job Approval Authority (JAA) for conducting WSP assessments.
  - (i) The limiting factor for “Existing WSP Assessments” shall be utilized for delegating JAA for conducting WSP assessments.
  - (ii) JAA shall be delegated by the State Conservation Engineer to the Area Engineer.
  - (iii) The Area Engineer shall be responsible for delegating to staff throughout the Area.
- (4) WSPs shall be assessed by an individual possessing adequate JAA to conduct an onsite assessment of each existing WSP associated with an AFO/CAFO.
  - (i) A thorough onsite review of the WSPs structural integrity and site risk shall be completed. Utilization of WA Engineering TN #23 ensures a comprehensive assessment. At a minimum, the review shall consider the following:
    - a. Site risk factors shall be identified and documented.
    - b. Adherence with the pertinent NRCS practice standards in place at the time of construction.
    - c. Has the WSP been properly maintained to address vegetation, rodent activity, internal erosion,
    - d. If the WSP was modified after initial construction was the modification completed in accordance with recognized engineering practices and associated NRCS standards?
    - e. A trip report shall be prepared for the producer stating our findings and recommendations.
  - (ii) The assessment results will be discussed with the Landowner or Operator. NRCS will furnish copies of all relevant trip reports and WSP assessments.
  - (iii) If the assessment indicates that a WSP is “Medium Risk”, the Area Engineer shall determine and document the recommended course of action regarding repair, rehabilitation or decommissioning. The general recommendation would fall into one of the three following categories:
    - a. Repair the WSP as outlined by NRCS, or
    - b. Rehabilitate the WSP to bring it to current NRCS practice standards, or
    - c. Decommission the WSP in accordance with NRCS standards.

- (iv.) If the assessment indicates that a WSP is “High Risk” and needs immediate attention, given the high likelihood of failure, the Area Engineer shall discuss the structural concerns and the recommended course of action pertinent to the following categories:
  - a. Rehabilitate the WSP to bring it to current NRCS practice standards, or
  - b. Decommission the WSP in accordance with NRCS standards.

(4) Exemptions:

- (i) AFO/CAFO operations signing up for a NRCS Conservation Activity Plan 128, Agricultural Energy Management Plan or Conservation Activity Plan 102, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan are exempt from the policy contained within this section.
- (ii) Implementation of an approved CAP 128, AgEMP.
- (iii) Abandoned WSPs or WSP not being used by the Operator.