Transmitted via Email

March 28, 2017

**NATIONAL ENGINEERING MANUAL (NEM)**
**TITLE 210**
**NOTICE MN-4**

Subject: Parts 500 - Introduction, 501 - Authorizations, 503 - Safety, 505 - Non-NRCS Engineering Services, 506 - Technical Materials, 531 - Geology

Purpose. To distribute revised Minnesota Supplements to the National Engineering Manual. These supplements have been updated extensively and should be read in their entirety.

Effective Date. This amendment is effective when received.

Explanation:

**NEM Part 500 - Introduction.**
The engineering services and requesting engineering assistance sections were reorganized and revised.

**NEM Part 501 - Authorizations.**
These sections were revised extensively in order to align with NRCS National Engineering Policy.

Some of the updates include:

1. All references to Technical Approval Authority have been removed. The applicable national terminology is Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA).
2. An updated Minnesota EJAA Chart.
3. The requirement for inclusion of an Inventory of Skills when completing a new EJAA chart.
4. State Conservation Engineer (SCE) recommends and delegates EJAA to Area Engineers.
5. Area Engineers recommend and delegate EJAA to those completing engineering work in their respective area with the exception of any NRCS GS-11 or GS-12 engineer. Also excluded are Non-NRCS Private Engineers. In each of these cases, the Area Engineer recommends and the SCE delegates EJAA.
6. In no case can the Area Engineer delegate a EJAA for Job Class V without concurrence of the SCE. In these cases, the Area Engineer recommends and the SCE delegates.
7. In the case of an NRCS or Non-NRCS person, the supervisor of the person must concur in the delegation of EJAA.

**NEM Part 503 - Safety.**
Many inclusions have been made to the Safety section regarding Underground Utilities.

The stray voltage protection requirements will be moved to the National Engineering Handbook, specifically the Animal Waste Management Field Handbook.

**NEM Part 505 - Non-NRCS Engineering Services.**
Some of the updates include clarification related to:

1. Clarification that the term Non-NRCS employees does not include those who have been assigned Minnesota EJAA.
2. Work by Non-NRCS individuals with no EJAA must be prepared by a Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in the state of Minnesota.
3. Clarification of a required onsite visit to certify practices as complete.

**NEM Part 506 - Technical Materials.**
A new section on the approval process for Minnesota Engineering design tools was added.

**NEM Part 531 - Geology.**
This section references the Minnesota NRCS Guide to Subsurface Investigations as the policy on geologic investigations in Minnesota.

Filing Instructions: If a hard copy of the NEM and its associated Minnesota supplements are being maintained:

> Remove: All existing Minnesota Supplements from Parts 500, 501, 503, 505, 506, and 531 and insert the March 2017 Minnesota Supplements.

The Minnesota supplements are located on the Minnesota NRCS web site under Topics – Technical Resources – Engineering – Manuals and Handbooks / MN Supplements – Title 210 National Engineering Manual, and the following link:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/technical/?cid=nrcs142p2_023723.

Paper versions of the supplement will not be distributed. Field staff should contact their Area Engineer for engineering policy questions.

CATHEE PULLMAN
State Conservationist

Dist: All MN NRCS Employees
Al Kean, BWSR, St. Paul, MN
LeAnn Buck, MASWCD, St. Paul, MN