



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: (651) 602-7900  
Fax: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via email

December 5, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 390-8-1

SUBJECT: PDM – INFRASTRUCTURE RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY – NRCS ASSISTED PROJECT DAMS

Purpose. To transmit dam inspection information and request action.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

A letter to all State Conservationists signed by the three Regional Assistant Chiefs and dated October 3, 2007, requires that all states take action with regard to compliance with Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreements on dams built under the PL-534, PL-566, Pilot and RC&D Authorities. Each State Conservationist has an item in their FY08 Performance Plan that requires the following work be completed by August 29, 2008:

1. Determine if each dam is compliant with the O&M agreement.
2. Notify all sponsors and the State Dam Safety Officer in writing if the dam is non-compliant with the O&M agreement.
3. Verify the dam hazard classification is accurate, per the cycle as defined in policy.
4. The State Conservationist must certify that this work is complete.

The accompanying excel spreadsheet identifies 47 inventory-sized dams in Minnesota which will require examination to comply with this.

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7
7	3	1	0	6	1	29

The archives in the State Office were examined and copies of the O&M agreements were found for most of the 47 dams. A copy of all O&M agreements on file in St. Paul for dams in an NRCS area is being provided to the Area Engineers.

Policy requires that the hazard class be considered each time the dam is formally inspected every 5 years. This began in 2003 so the hazard class should have been considered no longer than 5 years ago on every project dam in the NRCS inventory. This is an important part of the dam inspection. If a dam is found where the hazard class is in doubt, notify John Brach, State Conservation Engineer and also request assistance for the evaluation if needed.



The reports, along with current digital photos of the structures, should be emailed to John Brach and Sonia Maassel Jacobsen by July 1, 2008. Use form MN-PDM-001A or MN-PDM-001B (attached) as appropriate to document the inspections.

A letter from the State Conservationist will then be sent to each sponsor which states that a compliance review of the O&M Agreement has been performed and the results will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Sonia Maassel Jacobsen at (651) 602-7879.

Thank you for your assistance.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

- 3 Attachments
1. PDM-001A
  2. PDM-001B
  3. List of dams

DIST: John Brach, SCE, NRCS, St. Paul, MN  
Sonia Maassel Jacobsen, HE, NRCS, St. Paul, MN  
John Beckwith, WRSL, NRCS, St. Paul, MN  
ASTC(FO)  
Area Engineers