
United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Soil
Conservation
Service**

**National
Watershed
Manual**

Part 508

**Post Installation
Assistance**

Part 508

Post Installation Assistance

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Subpart 508A Introduction**508.00 Introduction**

Part 508 provides Soil Conservation Service (SCS) policy in administering the operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements for any practice installed with SCS assistance. It includes provisions for remedial, rehabilitation, and decommissioning work where project measures may not conform to current engineering criteria, safety standards, or stability requirements.

Watershed projects installed under Public Law 83-566 contain land treatment, structural, and nonstructural practices that are planned to solve related soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource problems. The projects are planned to function over a period of generally not less than 25 years nor more than 100 years.

Before obtaining Federal financial assistance for installation of project measures, the Sponsoring Local Organizations (SLO) must satisfactorily assure SCS that installed practices will be operated and maintained properly. Arrangements for O&M must be documented. Satisfactory assurance consists of the development and signing of an O&M agreement between the SLO and SCS or, in the case of land treatment, between the SCS and the SLO/land user.

Many of the problems affecting installed structural measures are associated with the age of the structure and the lack of conformance to current engineering standards, safety, and stability.

Where a determination of the type of post-installation assistance is needed, the SLO will initiate such a request to SCS. If in making that determination a program report will be developed, the SLO will assist in the development of such a report.

Subpart 508B Operation and maintenance**508.10 Introduction****(a) Operation**

Operation includes the administration, management, and performance of nonmaintenance actions needed to keep a completed practice safe and functioning as planned. This includes being cognizant of changes in watershed conditions, both above and below completed practices, which alter the overall function of the project, so appropriate actions can be taken promptly.

(b) Maintenance

Maintenance includes routine work required to prevent deterioration of practices, to repair damage, or to replace practice components. It includes recurring needs, such as repainting, fertilizing and managing vegetation for dams and channels and repairing or replacing side channels and drop structures associated with a channel. Maintenance also includes repairing damages to completed practices caused by normal deterioration, drought, vandalism, or flooding from other than a catastrophic event.

508.11 Responsibilities

Responsibilities for O&M of watershed works of improvement are described in the National Operations and Maintenance Manual, 180-500. The O&M requirements must be documented in an O&M agreement with the SLO. Program managers should be familiar with these responsibilities and requirements and provide followup to ensure that an effective O&M program is carried out.

508.12 Inspection and followup

The O&M plan shall identify the practices covered by the agreement, the SLO who will inspect and finance the O&M of each practice, and the duration of the agreement. It will establish a schedule for performing inspections.

The SLO/land user is responsible for making the necessary inspections and may request SCS assistance. SCS responsibility for assisting in inspections and followup is designated by the state conservationist.

Where two or more States are concerned, responsibility will be determined jointly by the state conservationists.

It is recommended that SCS and the SLO make joint inspections

- During or immediately after the initial filling of a reservoir,
- Annually during the first 3 years after construction, and
- After major storms, major earthquakes, or other unusual conditions that might adversely affect the measure.

The SLO are responsible for continuing inspections after the third year. They are to prepare a report and send a copy to the SCS watershed program manager. SCS may assist for special situations as determined by the state conservationist.

State conservationists are to prepare a report to the SLO when structural measures reach their evaluated life and/or when the O&M agreement has expired. The report is to outline options available as to the relative need to continue operations and maintenance of the project facilities.

508.13 Technical assistance

SCS may provide technical assistance to the SLO in the O&M of installed measures. The following kinds of assistance are normally considered as O&M technical assistance:

- Coordination and training of the SLO on local responsibilities and development of financial methods of assuring availability of funds.
- Assisting with annual inspections and reports.
- Preparing or reviewing plans, designs, and specifications for proposed changes. This may include such items as emergency action plans.

Subpart 508C Remedial work

508.20 Kinds of remedial work

Remedial work is defined as work needed to correct problems caused as a result of a mistake or misjudgment by SCS during the installation of a measure or as a result of latent site conditions unknown to SCS or the sponsor/land user at the time of installation. Changes in policy, technical standards, or engineering concepts developed subsequent to the installation of the original measure are not considered mistakes or misjudgments by SCS. The following kinds of work may be considered as remedial work:

- Repair of a measure's components that deteriorate more rapidly than planned or do not perform as expected because of unusual or latent conditions.
- Reconstruction or repair of a completed measure that malfunctioned or failed because of a design or construction deficiency.
- Modification of a structure, property relocation, or addition of nonstructural measure, whichever is the most cost effective to meet the criteria for a higher hazard classification, where a structure was misclassified before installation.

508.21 Procedure

Remedial work may be necessary in operational or completed construction projects. The need for remedial work is to be documented by a program report. The preparation of the report is to be coordinated by the responsible state staff program manager. The report should contain the following:

- What caused the situation
- Alternatives considered (including doing nothing and determining methods for sponsor solutions and alternative engineering solutions)
- Analysis of the cost effectiveness of alternatives
- Estimated costs, benefits, and environmental effects
- Recommended solution

Technical input from the appropriate state technical specialists will be obtained by the program manager when the report is prepared. The National Technical Center (NTC) review and concurrence are required for remedial work that will substantially affect a measure that initially required NTC concurrence. An informational copy of the final report is to be sent to the Watershed Projects Division (WPD) and the NTC for all work authorized by the state conservationist. A copy of the final report will accompany all requests for authorization for remedial work exceeding the state conservationist's authority.

SCS may provide cost-sharing assistance for needed remedial work up to the same cost-sharing rate used for the original installation. The state conservationist may approve cost-sharing for remedial work if:

- The estimated Federal construction cost of the remedial work does not exceed \$150,000.
- The necessary program report has been completed and the required technical approvals have been obtained.
- The project is an operational project or the state conservationist has taken the necessary actions to reopen the project.
- The director, WPD, has been notified.

Where the estimated Federal construction cost of the remedial work exceeds \$150,000, the state conservationist must request authorization to proceed from the Chief. The letter of request must include a copy of the program report.

Subpart 508D Additional work

508.30 Additional work

Additional work may be considered in watershed projects. This includes installing land treatment, structural measures, or nonstructural measures to benefit new beneficiaries or the same beneficiaries to a different degree. It may include measures to serve an additional purpose.

Additional work considered for operational and completed projects will follow the policies in part 506.

508.31 Procedure

Authorization to reopen a project and reaffirmation of planning must be granted by the Chief. The request must be supported by a letter of request by the SLO and a report. The report should indicate that the additional work meets program objectives and shall outline the need for additional work, proposed measures, estimated cost, and anticipated environmental effects. A copy of the letter of request and the pre-authorization report are to be sent to the director, WPD, and the director of the NTC.

Upon notification from the Chief that additional planning is authorized, the state conservationist may proceed with the necessary studies and preparation of the documents.

Subpart 508E Rehabilitation work

508.40 Introduction

Rehabilitation work is defined as all work in excess of the operation and maintenance required to repair, restore, or improve a practice to a condition appropriate for its current or intended purpose(s). This may be a change from the practice's "as-built" condition. Rehabilitation also includes the repair of the practice damaged as the results of a catastrophic storm event (the 100-year rainfall for channels and the 100-year rainfall or the storm event that produces a 2-foot depth of flow in the emergency spillway for dams) or major natural events, such as an earthquake.

508.41 Types of rehabilitation work

Rehabilitation work may be considered in completed or partly completed and operational projects. Rehabilitation work considered for operational projects including work on projects that add additional purposes, benefit new beneficiaries, or both, shall follow the policies and guidelines in part 506. Rehabilitation work may include the following:

- Reconstructing or repairing principal spillways, embankments, emergency spillways, and other structural components of a dam to ensure the continued integrity of the installed structure.
- Installing structural, nonstructural, or land treatment measures to benefit new or the same beneficiaries to a different degree.

508.42 Documentation

The need for rehabilitation work is to be documented by a program report. The preparation of the report is to be coordinated by the responsible state staff program manager. The report is to contain specifics as to the current conditions, projected future conditions, alternatives considered, environmental effects, selected solutions, estimated benefits and costs, and recommended solutions. An informational copy of the final report is to be sent to the WPD and NTC for all

work authorized by the state conservationist. A copy of the final report will accompany all requests for authorization for rehabilitation work exceeding the state conservationist's authority.

508.43 Authority

Authority to develop a rehabilitation plan on completed construction projects must be granted by the Chief. The request must be supported by an amended project application and a program report. The report should indicate that the planned work meets program objectives and is economically feasible and environmentally acceptable. A copy of the letter of request and the program report is to be sent to the director, WPD, and the NTC director.

508.44 Technical assistance

SCS may provide technical assistance for needed rehabilitation work.

Subpart 508F Decommissioning work

508.50 Introduction

Decommissioning is taking a structure out of service in an environmentally sound and safe manner or converting it to a nonproject purpose. For example, changing from flood control to recreation may require transferring responsibility from the original entity to another.

Decommissioning can be considered for all installed works of improvement.

508.51 Procedure

The need for decommissioning is to be documented by a program report. The report is to contain specifics as to what caused the situation, alternatives considered, estimated cost, and selected solution. Technical input from the appropriate state technical specialist will be obtained by the program manager when the report is prepared. An informational copy of the final report is to be sent to the WPD and NTC for all work authorized by the state conservationist. A copy of the final report will accompany all requests for authorization for decommissioning work exceeding the state conservationist's authority.

Appropriate modification shall be made to the O&M agreement to reflect the decommissioning of the installed measures. In the case where responsibility is transferred to another entity, an exchange of correspondence shall be completed to document the change. Copies of the agreement shall be provided to all the SLO, the WPD director, and the NTC director.

508.52 Technical assistance

SCS may provide technical assistance for decommissioning work.

Subpart 508G Closed projects

508.60 Closed projects

Projects are considered closed when watershed plan commitments for Public Law 83-566 assistance are satisfied as follows.

(a) Projects that include structural or nonstructural measures

These projects are considered closed when:

- All planned work has been installed, and
- The operation and maintenance agreement has expired.

(b) Watershed protection projects

These projects are considered closed when:

- All planned works have been installed, and
- All contracts have expired.

Both water resource projects and watershed protection projects are considered closed when a project has been deauthorized.

