

## Checklist for Implementation Rehabilitation of Aging Watershed Dams

The following are the major steps involved with implementation of a watershed rehabilitation project. The citations indicate the location of the policy in the National Watershed Manual.

### Assessment of Existing Dams (Optional)

- ◆ Project sponsor with Operation and Maintenance responsibility submits a request to the State Conservationist for assessment of a specific dam in a PL-534, PL-566, Pilot or Resource Conservation and Development existing project, 508.41(b).
- ◆ State Conservationist conducts preliminary investigation of the requested dam, 508.41(c).
- ◆ State Conservationist prepares assessment report to describe condition and rehabilitation needs of the dam. Report is furnished to all project sponsors of the watershed project, 508.41(d).

### Rehabilitation Application

- ◆ All current project sponsors sign and submit an application SF-424 "Application for Federal Assistance" to request assistance for rehabilitation of a specific project dam, 508.42
- ◆ Project sponsors must solicit input from the State Dam Safety Agency; information must be attached to the application.
- ◆ Specific information must be submitted with the application.
- ◆ Sponsors must certify:
  - Ability to obtain landrights in a timely manner.
  - Ability to provide local funds for cost-share.
  - Ability to provide leadership to assure controls on development downstream (if low or significant hazard dam).
  - Operation and maintenance is current for dam proposed to be rehabilitated.
  - Funds are available for continued operation and maintenance.

### Ranking and Acceptance of Projects

- ◆ State Conservationist conducts an evaluation of the applications received, 508.43(b).
- ◆ State Conservationist seeks input from the State Dam Safety Agency, 508.43(b).
- ◆ State conservationist assigns a priority ranking for each dam using uniform ranking procedures, 508.43(b).
- ◆ State Conservationist requests funds for specific rehabilitation projects for next fiscal year, 508.43(c).
- ◆ NRCS makes allocation of funds for technical assistance for planning selected rehabilitation projects, 508.43(d).

### Planning of Selected Projects

- ◆ The NRCS project planning procedures are used. Planning will address needs for the specified project and will include compliance with: 508.44(a).
  - ◆ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement )with opportunities for public participation and interagency review.
  - ◆ National Historic Preservation Act.
  - ◆ Tribal Consultation Compliance.
  - ◆ Threaten and Endangered Species Act.
  - ◆ Conduct scoping activities, 508.44(b).
    - Gather all available information.
    - Public input (include appropriate outreach)
    - Identify issues.
    - Identify additional information needs.

# Checklist for Implementation

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- ◆ The following alternatives will be evaluated: 508.44(c):
  - No action.
  - Decommissioning/removal of the dam.
  - Rehabilitate dam to meet current criteria.
  - National Economic Development alternative (may be a combination of other alternatives).
- ◆ The following nonstructural alternative may also be evaluated in combination with decommissioning or rehabilitation:
  - Relocation or flood-proofing of at risk property located in downstream floodplains.
  - Purchase of easements or development rights in breach inundation area.
- ◆ The economic analysis, including benefits and cost, and other compelling issues considered (social, environmental, etc.) are displayed.
- ◆ A benefit cost ratio for each alternative is computed.
- ◆ The State Conservationist approves and the NRCS Chief authorizes the rehabilitation plan prior to implementation.

## Cost-Share Arrangements

- ◆ The total cost of the rehabilitation project is computed, including the following: 508.44(g).
  - Non-federal Technical Assistance (technical assistance provided by NRCS is not counted as part of “total project cost” for the purpose of calculating non-federal match).
  - Landrights
  - Construction.
  - Local legal and administrative costs.

- ◆ A Memorandum of Understanding is prepared to define non-federal “in-kind” contributions, 508.44(i).
- ◆ The federal cost share is computed as 65% of the total rehabilitation costs, but do not exceed 100 percent of actual construction costs incurred in the rehabilitation, 508.44(g) and (h).

## Design

- ◆ Designs are completed that meet current NRCS standards and state standards whichever are more stringent, 508.45.

## Pre-construction Needs

- ◆ A new Operation and Maintenance agreement and O&M plan are prepared to cover the evaluated life of the rehabilitated dam prior to construction contract solicitation, 508.46.
- ◆ Sponsors certify adequate landrights are obtained.
- ◆ Sponsor certify that controls on future downstream development have been enacted for low or significant hazard dam.
- ◆ Sponsor certify that Emergency Action Plan is prepared and in place for high hazard dams.

## Construction

- ◆ Bids for the construction contract are solicited.
- ◆ Construction contract is awarded.

## Project Accomplishments

- ◆ State Conservationist submits accountability and performance data, 508.47.
- ◆ Sponsors submit completion report within 90 days following completion of the rehabilitation project.