

Preliminary Site Assessment - Pond Repair/Retrofit

This preliminary assessment does NOT constitute a formal soil or geologic investigation or a pond design, and should not be used for construction. The information on this form represents a preliminary site assessment to evaluate the feasibility of a potential pond repair/retrofit. Please complete for the management unit that will benefit from the pond repair/retrofit.

Client Name: _____ Tract/Field: _____

Mailing Address: _____ County of Pond: _____

Date farm operation established: _____ Latitude & Longitude of Pond Site: _____

Is the pond site located on a tract of land with a conservation easement? Yes No

Is the farm enrolled in either of the following? Voluntary Agriculture District Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Not Applicable

Cooperator is eligible for 90% cost share assistance because: No Yes, limited resource farmer Yes, new farmer Yes, EVAD participant

Primary Purpose of Pond: Irrigation Livestock Water Other (define) _____

Is the pond intended for: Existing Need Projected Increased Need Both

Complete for Irrigation Pond

Crops to Be Irrigated	Current Acres	Planned Future Acres	Total acres	Irrigation Method

Complete for Livestock Water Pond

Type of livestock	Type of production operation	Current No. of livestock	Planned Future No. of livestock	Total No. of livestock

What water sources are you currently using on this management unit? _____

Estimated water volume currently using on this management unit? _____ acre-feet

Estimated water volume currently needed but not supplied? _____ acre-feet

Estimated water volume for projected need? (future expansion, change of crops etc.) _____ acre-feet

SITE CHARACTERISTICS All values are estimated and best opinion values. Detailed topographic surveys and site investigations are not a part of this assessment. The information collected in this preliminary assessment applies only to the site identified on the attached location map, which should include the pond to be repaired and the land management unit that will benefit from the proposed repair.

Excavated Embankment
Estimated drainage area: _____ acres
Estimated pool area: _____ acres
Estimated depth of water: _____ feet
Estimated embankment height: _____ feet
Estimated length of dam: _____ feet
Estimated pond volume: _____ acre-feet

Does the dam appear to be in sound, structural condition? Yes No
If No, explain any deficiencies in the Notes Section.

Soils:
List soil(s) in the impoundment and surrounding area:

Are there any geologic or soil features that may require special design or construction such as rocky soils, shallow soils, shallow bedrock or deep sands? Yes, explain No

Is there an adequate borrow area within ½ mile?
Yes No N/A

Is there an adequate place onsite to place spoil?
Yes No N/A

Existing Principal Spillway:
Diameter of riser: _____ inches barrel: _____ inches
Pipe Material: riser _____ barrel _____
Does the principal spillway need to be replaced?
Yes No
If Yes, please describe why (rusted, collapsed, leaking etc...) in the Notes Section.

Are there any other concerns regarding existing principal spillway (please explain):

Auxiliary Spillway:
Type: _____ Size: _____
Is the auxiliary spillway eroding? Yes No
If Yes, please describe severity in Notes Section.

Adequate auxiliary spillway? Yes No
If No, explain if there is a suitable location for one in the Notes Section.

Are there any other concerns regarding existing auxiliary spillway (please explain): _____

Vegetation:
Are there trees/high bushes? Yes No
Trees over 6" diameter? Yes No
If Yes, approximately how many: _____

Embankment:
Erosion Yes No
If Yes, please describe location and severity in Notes Section.

Does the erosion appear to be from overtopping?
Yes No

Is the pond leaking? Yes No
If Yes, please describe type, location and severity of erosion in Notes Section.

Other Problems (please explain): _____

Hazard Classification:
Hazard class when originally constructed _____
Current hazard classification: _____

If pond is not currently classified by DENR, please complete the below information.

Most recent annual average daily traffic count: _____
<http://www.ncdot.gov/travel/statemapping/trafficvolumemaps/>

Distance of road/hazard downstream: _____
Elevation difference from hazard (structure-road, house, etc.) to floodplain: _____
Culvert/Bridge Dimensions: _____

Additional Considerations

Repairs or retrofits shall occur on existing agricultural pond systems. Benefits may include water supply, erosion control, flood control and sediment nutrient reductions from farm fields.

For projects involving dam, spillway, or overflow pipe upgrades, the design and final repair/ retrofit must be certified by a professional engineer or an individual with appropriate job approval authority.

The pond repair must be designed to the specification determined in the AgWRAP BMP policy.

Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits. Discharge of pond water during the draining process shall not violate turbidity standards nor result in accelerated erosion.

All disturbed areas, including haul roads shall be seeded and mulched after construction.

Minimum life of repair/retrofit is 10 years. If the pond is no longer used for agriculture during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.

Notes:

Signature of Job Approval Authority_____

Agency:_____

Date: _____

FACT SHEET: Planning & Permitting Requirements Associated with Pond Construction

It is the landowner/participant's responsibility to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and permit requirements.

USDA Farm Bill Wetlands Conservation Provisions (Swampbuster):

- All USDA program participants are encouraged to file an AD-1026 with the Farm Service Agency. Manipulation of wetlands in order to develop a pond embankment, spillway, or pool area is not a violation of Wetlands Compliance provisions of the Farm Bill, as this wetland manipulation does not make the production of a commodity crop possible. NRCS wetland determination on these areas would likely be labeled "WX", which would not result in non-compliance.
- If other potential wetland areas will be manipulated as part of the pond construction where production of a commodity crop would be possible (even if there are no plans to plant a commodity crop), then compliance with the Farm Bill wetland rules could be affected.

Federal and State Wetland, Stream, Buffer and Dam Safety Regulatory Programs:

- The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, more commonly known as the "Clean Water Act," under *Section 404*, directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters or wetlands of the U.S. This law has a direct impact on the development of ponds on non-isolated waters or wetlands considered under the jurisdiction of this law. Pond construction for irrigation and livestock water can sometimes be exempt from the Corps regulatory program and the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) wetlands protection rules; however, there are also circumstances when permits may be required to construct farm ponds. Determining which areas qualify for protection is a Corps responsibility. For more information: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/index.html>
- Participants should be aware that the wetland determination and jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act is not the same as any determination made by USDA for the Wetlands Compliance provisions of the Farm Bill.
- If the Corps determines that a 404 Permit or Section 10 Permit is required, then a 401 Water Quality Certification is also required from the DWR. When the state issues a 401 Certification, this certifies that a given project will not degrade Waters of the State or otherwise violate water quality standards. For more information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401>
- A buffer authorization may be required if your property occurs in a regulated buffer basin. If a new or expanded pond occurs on a buffered stream, restoration of the buffer may be required. Every site has unique conditions. Contact Central or appropriate Regional Office staff at DWR with direct questions about your project to discuss applicability and implications of the buffer rules. These contacts and other information about the Buffer Rules are posted at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/riparianbuffers>
- An Isolated Wetlands Permit (also may be referred to as a Non-404 Jurisdictional Wetlands Permit) may be needed from DWR when the Corps determines that a wetland to be potentially impacted is not 404 jurisdictional. An Isolated Wetlands Permit is not a 401 Certification. The application process is similar to applying for a 401 Certification. For more information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401>
- In NC, some waters in western counties have trout designations. Certain activities on these waters, depending upon the stream designation and time of year, may be restricted in order to protect this valuable resource. If you are in a "trout" county, check with the Corps representative to see if additional restrictions apply. <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/where/imap2/index.html>
- If the proposed pond will disturb more than one acre, a Sediment and Erosion Control Permit may be required from the NC Division of Energy, Mining, and Land Resources (DEMLR). Some agricultural activities are considered exempt. For more information: http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us/pages/sedimentation_new.html
- Depending upon factors such as dam height, drainage area, downstream land use, and other factors, a permit from the DEMLR Dam Safety Program could be required. For more information: <http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us/pages/damsafetyprogram.html>
- Other state or local ordinances could apply to some sites. Rules or guidance associated with the Coastal Area Management Act, NC River Basin rules, or other regulatory programs should be considered. For more information: <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/>