

Preliminary Site Assessment – New Pond

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 site.

Client Name: _____ Tract/Field: _____

Mailing Address: _____ County of Pond Site: _____

Date farm operation established: _____

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 | Irrigation Method |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

Complete for Livestock Water Pond

| Type of livestock | Type of production operation | Current No. of livestock | Planned Future 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 site and the land management unit that will benefit from the proposed new Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Excavated <input type="checkbox"/> Embankment <input type="checkbox"/> Combination <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Estimated drainage area: _____ acres</p> <p>Estimated pool area: _____ acres</p> <p>Estimated depth of water: _____ feet</p> <p>Estimated embankment height: _____ feet</p> <p>Estimated length of dam: _____ feet</p> <p>Estimated pond volume: _____ acre-feet</p> <p>Estimated amount of excavated material _____ cu yds</p> <p>Anticipated method of filling pond: (indicate approx %)</p> <p>Drainage Area: _____ Well: _____</p> <p>Groundwater Recharge: _____</p> <p>Pump from stream: _____</p> <p>Other (please explain): _____</p> <p>Water demand provided: _____</p> <p>(Multiply estimated pool area (ac) x estimated depth of water (ft) x 0.7 for excavated pond OR 0.4 if an embankment pond. And other water sources, then divide value by water balance tool output, multiply by 100 to obtain %)</p> <p>Has a 401/404 exemption, permit or determination of no permit required been obtained? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Does this site potentially include isolated waters?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Including isolated wetlands that may be exempt from the Clean Water Act, what is the estimated acreage of wetlands that will be permanently inundated by pond water or covered by the embankment/spillway/spoil?</p> <p>_____ acres</p> <p>Approximately how many linear feet of stream will be permanently inundated by pond water and/or filled by the embankment/spillway/spoil?</p> <p>_____ feet of stream inundated</p> <p>_____ feet of stream filled</p> <p>Most recent annual average daily traffic count: _____</p> <p>http://www.ncdot.gov/travel/statemapping/trafficvolumemaps/</p> <p>Predicted Hazard classification: _____</p> <p>Distance of road/hazard downstream: _____</p> <p>Elevation difference from hazard (structure-road, house, etc.) to floodplain: _____</p> <p>Culvert/Bridge Dimensions: _____</p> | <p>List soil(s) in the impoundment area:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List soil map units in the area that are suitable for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">core trench _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">embankment _____</p> <p>Has a backhoe soils investigation been completed on this site? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Are there any geologic or soil features that may require special design or construction such as rocky soils, shallow soils, shallow bedrock, deep sands, or other local pond failures? Yes, explain <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Is there an adequate borrow area within 1/2 mile?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Is there an adequate place onsite to place spoil?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
|--|--|--|

Technical Recommendation

Are the physical characteristics of the site generally suitable for an embankment or excavated pond, including an emergency spillway that can address the purpose indicated above and satisfy the practice standard requirements?

Yes No, explain

Will the noted special design and construction considerations significantly increase project costs and potentially impact project implementation?

Yes, explain No No Special Design Considerations

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 ¹ordinances 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/>