

SUBCHAPTER C – APPLICATIONS

PART - 528 SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBPART C – DAMS

MT 528 (b)

§MT 528.20 General

(b) Dams must be planned, designed, and constructed with uniform criteria to perform consistently, efficiently, and safely. The responsibility of proper inspection and operation and maintenance of a dam must be clearly understood by each landowner or sponsor. An O&M plan must be developed with the landowner or sponsors of each NRCS assisted dam before construction is initiated on the following classified dams as outlined in paragraph 520.21(b); all Class B or C dams, Class A dams more than 6 feet high, (height is the difference in elevation between the top of the dam and the lowest elevation at the downstream toe and a storage capacity of 50 acre feet or more, and for Class A dams with a height of 25 feet or more and a storage capacity of more than 15 acre feet). The O&M plan should be tailored to the specific dam, furnished and explained to the landowner or sponsor, and the action documented. The O&M plan may need to be rather lengthy and elaborate for large or complex dams and may be relatively simple and straight forward for small farm pond dams. However, the O&M plan should always point out the responsibility of the landowners or sponsor, the hazard potential used a basis for and the need for periodic inspection. Statements in O&M plan which could be used to point out the responsibility and hazard are as follows:

“(Name), as owner (or sponsor), is responsible for the dam covered by this O&M plan. Although dams designed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service are based on the best available technical knowledge, it must be recognized that any dam creates some risk, and therefore needs to be periodically inspected and properly operated and maintained.”

“Dam _____ (add reference as needed), has been classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a..... (add the appropriate classification definition as given in paragraph 520.21(b). Include items expected for operation, maintenance, repair and replacement as needed for the dam.)”

“The dam should be inspected during or immediately after initial filling of the reservoir; annually during the first 3 years after construction; after major storms, earthquakes, or other occurrences; and at least once every two years following the initial 3-year period. In addition, a detailed engineering inspection should be conducted at least once every 5 years following construction.”

MT 528-2(1)