

PART 505 – NON-NRCS ENGINEERING SERVICES

SUBPART A – INTRODUCTION

MT505.03(b)(1)(iii)

MT505.03(b)(1) Review of work performed by consultants and suppliers.

(i) In order to assure the project is eligible for NRCS federal funding, NRCS staff shall complete the “Needs and Feasibility,” and program eligibility requirements prior to a non-NRCS employee starting on the technical planning or design aspects of the project.

(ii) In Montana, at the request of the district conservationist, an NRCS employee(s) with proper engineering job approval authority or as designated by the state conservation engineer for a particular project shall meet with the non-NRCS individual, partner, other agency, consulting or engineering firm that will be providing the planning, design, and/or construction, prior to the start of any of the technical assistance. As a minimum, the NRCS employee(s) shall provide the following applicable information and requirement:

a) Practice standards.

b) NRCS design glossary, and references if appropriate.

c) Montana Supplement to the Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 51, Planning and Design Guide.

1) The sections of Chapter 51 are to be used as a reference and guide by the non-NRCS employee(s) to help determine NRCS planning and design standards for project documentation. (The planning process, design documentation, drawings, material and construction specifications shall have adequate detail that a NRCS employee with proper approval authority can review any step, understand and follow the logic of the technical information.)

2) All streambank or stream restoration practices shall require a stream classification prior to any alternatives being chosen.

d) The construction contracting method to be used so the non-NRCS individual can supply adequate documents that will meet the contracting methods. (In most cases, the contracting method and method of payment determine the amount of detail required in the drawings, specifications and quantities.)

(iii) The purpose of the pre-planning or design meeting is to have the NRCS employee define the NRCS requirements; i.e., that all NRCS standards, policy, federal and state laws shall be met if federal cost-share is to be obtained.

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(iv) After the pre-planning or design meeting, a summary letter shall be provided by the NRCS employee, that outlines the details and summarizes the scope and extent of the work the non-NRCS engineer is to provide. The letter shall address site specific portions of the National Engineering Manual, Part 505 and the Montana Amendments. An example of the letter is shown in Subpart E – Exhibits, 505.43. This letter shall be signed by the NRCS employee with proper approval authority.

MT505.03(b)(3)(v) Site specific plans and specifications.

a) The non-NRCS engineer shall have the design documentation and drawings checked and reviewed as outlined in the National Engineering Manual, Section 511.05. If the design is not checked and reviewed, it shall not be accepted by NRCS. The checked by and reviewed by signatures are required on all steps of the technical assistance. This detail shall be discussed with the non-NRCS registered professional engineer and be outlined prior to a technical start on the project.

b) If the documents, design, drawings, etc., are not sealed by a registered professional engineer there shall be a technical review, as defined in the National Engineering Manual, Section 511.05, by NRCS staff with proper approval authority.

1) All documentation issues shall be resolved between the non-NRCS employee and the NRCS employee prior to final approval is given for the project.

2) After the issues in the technical review have been completed, the NRCS employee with proper approval authority needs to approve the documents, design, drawings, etc., if non-NRCS engineering work has met NRCS standards, federal and state laws.

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