

STEPS FOR NEW PRIVATE DAM CONSTRUCTION

Step 1) – Project Category

NRCS will inspect maps or make site visit to determine the category of project, which will dictate the level of requirements necessary for completion.

Step 2 – Determination of Permits Required

The NRCS will determine if the dam requires a storage permit from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

- A permit is required if the dam is to be an “on-channel reservoir” and will store more than 15 acres feet.
- Some evaluation of 404 mitigation requirements can be made at this time.

Step 3 – Determine Who Does Design

The size of the project, or if a permit is required, will determine if the NRCS can be involved in the project. If the project will require more than 60 man-days of survey, testing, design, staking and inspection time, it cannot be constructed by the NRCS (Competition with private industry). A private engineering firm would need to be solicited. If a private firm accepts the job, the steps below will be followed.

If private companies decline to design dam, NRD Manager must make formal request to DC for planning assistance and DC would have to pass the request on to State Office. The State Office will determine if local office has man-power to design project in timely manner.

Step 4 – Preliminary Design

Local NRCS Office or private engineering company will conduct preliminary design to determine approximate cost of project.

Step 5 – 404 Permits

Landowner would use information collected in the preliminary design to fill out a 404 Permit for US Army Corps of Engineers and make application to NRD for cost-share assistance. If project is of a size which requires mitigation activities, a mitigation plan would have to be developed and submitted to the Corps of Engineers to offset impacts to wetlands. The review and approval time for 404 Permits can be 6 months to a year.

Step 6 – Final Design

When 404 Permit is received, NRCS or private consultant would do final topographic survey, conduct geology investigations, perform engineering design, drafting and develop the final design and specifications. (Estimated time required = 60 days plus)

Step 7 – Plan Review and Approval

When plans are completed, they must be submitted to NDNR for plan review and approval. (Time required for permit review and approval = 90 to 180 days)

Step 8 – Advertisement

Once plans are approved, landowner must advertise project and get three bids for project.

Step 9 – Construction

The NRCS or private engineering firm would stake site, serve as construction inspector and do final inspection. Construction could take 60 days or more, dependent on size of project.

(TOTAL TIME FROM START TO FINISH = 1 TO 2 YEARS)

STEPS FOR BUILDING OR REBUILDING A PRIVATE DAM (No DNR Permits Required)

Step 1) – Project Category

NRCS will inspect maps or make site visit to determine the extent of project, hydrology, need for geologic investigation, preliminary design time and cost estimate.

Step 2 – Review Preliminary Information with Landowner

NRCS will review information with landowner to determine if they want to proceed. If they decide to proceed, the NRCS will provide all information needed to help them make a request for jurisdictional determination from the Corps of Engineers.

Step 3 – Jurisdictional Request

Landowner would prepare a request for the jurisdictional determination from the Corps of Engineers. Corps would determine if 404 permit and/or wetland mitigation is required. (This process may take 30 days or so)

Step 3 – Determine Who Does Design

The NRCS will determine if they have time and resources to complete the project. If the NRCS does not have the time and resources to complete the project, they will prepare a letter to the landowner explaining the situation and encourage them to contact the NRD for guidance. Also, if the project will require more than 60 man-days of survey, testing, design, staking and inspection time, NRCS cannot compete with private industry. A private engineering firm would need to be solicited. If a private firm accepts the job, the steps below will be followed.

If private companies decline to design dam, NRD Manager must make formal request to DC for planning assistance and DC would have to pass the request on to State Office. The State Office will determine if local office has man-power to design project in timely manner.

Step 4 – Cost-Share Application

Regardless of who designs the project, when preliminary information is available, the landowner can make a cost-share application to the NRD based on the available information. This may include the estimated cost of engineering if the NRCS is not able to design the project.

Step 5 – Preliminary Design

Local NRCS Office or private engineering company would do final topographic survey, conduct geology investigations, perform engineering design, drafting and develop the final design and specifications. This would include mitigation plans if necessary. (Estimated time required = 60 days plus)

Step 6 – Advertisement

Once plans are approved, the landowner must advertise project and get three bids for project.

Step 7 – Construction

The NRCS or private engineering firm would stake site, serve as construction inspector and do final inspection. Construction could take 60 days or more, dependent on size of project.

(TOTAL TIME FROM START TO FINISH = 10 TO 18 MONTHS)