

## **Part 504 – Special Investigations, Studies, and Reports**

### **Subpart C – Reservoir Sedimentation Surveys**

#### **504.20 General**

A. Sediment has a major impact on water quality, water and land use, environmental value, and structure performance. Sedimentation surveys provide States with more reliable and defensible procedures for quantifying the off-farm impacts of sediment, assessing the effects of conservation practices on these off-farm impacts, and predicting sedimentation rates in ponds and reservoirs. Measurements of the sediment accumulating in reservoirs and determining the physical conditions influencing the sediment yield from the contributing watersheds provide some of the best data that can be obtained on erosion and deposition.

B. Selection of sites and interpretation and analysis of data must be made by the State for local applications.

#### **504.21 Procedures**

The detailed procedures for making these surveys are described in Title 210, National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Section 3, Chapter 7, and in the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D4581 “Standard Guide for Measurement of Morphologic Characteristics of Surface Water Bodies.”

#### **504.22 Reports**

A. Reservoir sedimentation reports must be prepared by the State for each survey as described in section “Survey Reports” (pages 7-27–7-31) in 210-NEH, Section 3, Chapter 7. The reservoir sediment accumulation data collected must be sufficient to complete Form NRCS-ENG-34, “Reservoir Sediment Data Summary” and provide the data on related watershed conditions (e.g., soils, surface geology, topography and land forms, land use and treatment, and all types of significant erosion).

B. The Director, Conservation Engineering Division, provides data from the completed NRCS-ENG-34 to the Subcommittee on Sedimentation and the Interagency Advisory Committee on Water Data to add to the database.