

Part 504 – Project Installation

Subpart C – Completion of Projects

504.20 Fully Installed Projects

- A. Watershed projects are complete when all planned measures, including mitigation and land treatment, involving Watershed Program assistance are installed in compliance with the watershed project plan as amended or supplemented and all long-term land treatment contracts have expired.
- B. The State Conservationist (STC) must provide a completion report to the Director, Conservation Engineering Division (CED), after all planned measures have been installed. The sponsoring local organization (SLO) must be requested to concur in the completion letter but the SLO concurrence is not required to report a project completed. The completion report must include the number and purposes of project features installed and an estimate of the Watershed Program costs and local costs. The estimated costs include real property rights, technical assistance, financial assistance, and administration costs. Copies of this notification must be sent to other concerned Federal agencies.
- C. The STC must send each SLO a letter informing them of the official completion date of the project, and reminding them of their operation and maintenance responsibilities.
- D. Watershed Program funds may not be charged to completed projects, except for post-installation assistance as defined in Title 390, National Watershed Program Manual, Part 505 (of this manual), without prior approval of the Chief.

504.21 Completion of Partially Installed Projects

- A. In the event that a project is partially implemented and there is little likelihood that remaining works will be installed, the STC and the SLO must review the project. If they agree that no further progress can be made, the project will be completed, subject to the following:
- (1) A supplemental watershed agreement will be prepared deleting the measures that have not been installed.
 - (2) A completion report with total installation costs will be submitted to the Director, CED.
 - (3) The project status will be reported as “installation complete” by CED upon receipt of the completion report.
- B. If the STC and the SLO agree that additional progress can be made, a schedule for installing the remaining measures will be prepared. If progress is not made within a reasonable period of time the STC will again review the likelihood of project completion and reassess actions to bring the project to completion.

504.22 Deauthorized Projects

- A. Deauthorization is applicable only to projects where no long-term-contracts (LTCs) have been signed, where no planned measures have been installed, or where no operation and maintenance (O&M) agreements are in effect. Deauthorization of a project removes authority to expend Public Law 83-566 funds.

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- B. When it becomes evident that the proposed works of improvement will not be installed, the STC must consult with the SLO to seek concurrence to deauthorize funding for the project. Agreements with the SLO to deauthorize funding for the project must be documented by an exchange of correspondence.
- C. If the SLO does not concur in deauthorization, the STC must submit the matter to the director of CED, setting forth the facts and the reasons why the SLO does not agree. The director will make a decision to deauthorize a project based on a case-by-case review of the information provided.
- D. The STC must send a notice of intent to deauthorize Federal funding (see exhibit in Title 390, National Watershed Program Handbook (NWPH), Part 606, Subpart E, Section 606.65, “Notice of Intent to Deauthorize Federal Funding—Example”) to the Federal Register, NRCS Chief, NRCS Assistant Chief, and concerned Federal, State, and local agencies. If authorization for funding by the Chief was subject to approval by resolution by congressional committees, the Chief must give the appropriate committees written notice of the proposed deauthorization at least 60 days before final deauthorization action is taken. The Chief must notify the STC if there are congressional concerns about the proposed deauthorization.
- E. Following the 60-day waiting period, the STC must notify the CED director of any concerns received. If there are none, the STC will request the Chief to deauthorize the project. The STC must notify the SLO and concerned Federal, State, and local agencies of the final action. The project status must be recorded as “deauthorized” in the national project status database.
- F. The STC must send a notice to the Federal Register announcing final deauthorization action and notifying the public that the action is not being implemented (see exhibit in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart E, Section 606.66, “Notice of Deauthorization of Funding—Example”).