Part 501 – Authorizations

Subpart C – Variance and Changes

501.30 General

Standards and criteria are developed, reviewed, and updated to incorporate improvement in construction methods, equipment, and material, as well as findings of research and experience both in response to immediate needs or on a recurring basis, often 5 years. Site-specific designs must accomplish the intended purpose of a practice or system safely and economically for the intended life with normal operation and maintenance. Frequently, site conditions require additional features or precautions beyond the minimum requirements of standards and criteria. Less frequently, requests to vary specific requirements of standards and criteria are requested. Variances may be granted where the practice or component will safely and economically provide the intended function over the practice life using the varied standard or criteria.

501.31 National Handbook of Conservation Practices

Variances from the requirements of the conservation practice standards in Title 450, National Handbook of Conservation Practices, are handled in accordance with Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.16, "Variances."

501.32 Channel Stability Criteria

A. The analysis of channel stability requires sound judgment. The best-known design techniques and criteria are available in Technical Release No. 25, "Design of Open Channels"; Title 210, National Engineering Handbook, Chapter 654, "Stream Restoration Design"; and Conservation Practice Standard Open Channel (Code 582). However, there are situations in which channel and site conditions in association with the methods of construction and maintenance indicate that variations from minimum stability criteria are warranted.

B. If the SCE determines that a variation from stability criteria is warranted, the results of the analysis and the proposed approach are to be submitted to the Director, Conservation Engineering Division (CED). The Director, CED, and the State will jointly study the data and proposal.