

## Part 531 – Geology

### Subpart C – Geologic Investigations for Group B Dam Sites and Embankments

#### 531.30 Group-B Dam Sites, Embankments, and Other Ground-Disturbing Practices

##### A. General

- (1) Geologic investigations must be conducted for existing or proposed Group-B dams, embankments, and other practices that entail significant ground-disturbing activity in order to assess suitability, identify and characterize any potential geologic hazards, and collect any other geologic information to support planning and design.
- (2) The State conservation engineer may delegate responsibility for reconnaissance investigations and preliminary geologic investigations of Group-B dams and embankments to NRCS nongeologists who are qualified to recognize geologic conditions and hazards pertinent to the site. A geologist must be consulted in areas where experience or information is limited, or geologic conditions are complex.
- (3) The scope, intensity, and requirements for geologic investigations must be consistent with criteria set forth in Subpart A, “Geologic Investigations.”

##### B. Waste Storage Ponds and Tanks

Site suitability must be evaluated in accordance with minimum criteria in conservation practice standards for waste storage or treatment and State, local, and Tribal requirements. Geologic investigations must focus on the depth and gradient of the groundwater table or piezometric surface, suitability of construction materials, foundation bearing strength, and overall site feasibility.

##### C. As-Built Investigations

If, during construction of any NRCS project, an unanticipated geologic condition is encountered that requires design modification, the responsible field person must notify the SCE as soon as possible. The SCE must determine the need for and secure the services of a qualified geologist to conduct a site visit to assess the unanticipated geologic condition and provide interpretations and technical support for design or installation changes.