




POLICY MEMORANDUM 01-2020

July 8, 2020

TO: All Engineers, Developers, Dam Owners and Regulatory Entities

THRU: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC
Executive Director

FROM: John B. Tarr, P.E. 
Chief Engineer/Program Manager

SUBJECT: Buoyancy Assessment of Principle Spillways

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Prince George's Soil Conservation District that the design and assessment of principle spillways reflect and proactively address potential failure scenarios.

Where this Policy Applies

This policy applies to all impoundment structures with a principle spillway regardless of type – embankment, excavated or hybrid. The design of principle spillways shall consider only the weight of its concrete composition in buoyancy/anti-flotation assessments to meet the minimum 1.2 factor of safety, per USDA-NRCS MD Code 378. The soil overburden atop the base of the structure(s), weight of the trash rack, or any other appurtenances shall be excluded.

This requirement is effective immediately and retroactive to all projects currently in review.

Additional Information

Please contact the District at 301.574.5162 EXT. 3 should you have questions or require additional information relating to this policy.