




POLICY MEMORANDUM 03-2020

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: Allowance for Fill Settlement in Impoundment Facilities

Policy Statement

Impoundment facilities are required to provide for the settlement of fill to maintain the design top of dam elevation. This allowance for settlement shall be a minimum percentage of the vertical fill profile per USDA-NRCS MD Code 378. This policy sets forth the assessment of the fill profile for use in settlement allowances and approval by the Prince George's Soil Conservation District.

Where this Policy Applies

This policy applies to all impoundment structures, regardless of type – embankment or excavated or hybrid, where the design height of the dam is established subject to settlement of a fill profile. The minimum height of the fill section for which an allowance for settlement is required shall be elevation difference between the *constructed* top, or emergency/auxiliary spillway as applicable, to the lowest point of excavation along the centerline of dam. The allowance for settlement shall account for the cut-off trench where present.

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.