

National Operations & Maintenance Manual

OK500.05 Guidance for Contractor Seismic Testing Operations

NRCS technical assistance can be obtained by following the appropriate protocol. Requesting technical assistance will be through your NRCS District Conservationist (DC). If the DC needs assistance with your request they will work it through the appropriate channels which in turn will work its way back to you through the DC.

All of the energy development activity across the state has many districts encountering a surge in seismic testing operations. All or some contractor seismic testing operations are going through the Call Okie process and being reviewed by Districts for potential impacts to watershed dams.

Oklahoma NRCS has provided the following guidance for seismic testing operations:

Significant and Low Hazard dams:

- Shall have a **300-foot offset distance** from the dam midpoint centerline.

High Hazard Dams:

- OFFSET DISTANCE SHALL BE **1,000 FEET** FROM THE DAM MIDPOINT CENTERLINE
- NO SEISMIC OR DRILLING OPERATION SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE OFFSET DISTANCE
- NO SEISMIC OR DRILLING ACTIVITY ON ANY DESIGNATED SITE WATER SURFACE.
- NO DEVELOPED WELL SITES WILL BE LESS THAN THE TOP OF DAM ELEVATION

Additional considerations:

- The contractor shall be responsible for all damage repairs to easement gates, fences, roads, existing surfaces, and incidentals created by the seismic testing operations.
- The contractor shall fill all drill holes with materials to insure no surface water contamination or surface water entering the drill holes made by the contractor within the easement boundaries.
- The contractor shall immediately remove all equipment, materials, cables, sonic devices, and incidentals from the easement or project area after all operations are satisfactorily completed.
- The sponsor shall be notified within 36 hours when all operations have been completed.

Oklahoma NRCS has submitted the Contractor Seismic Testing guidance above for approval as national policy in the O&M Manual. This guidance can be applied for your immediate use.

We recognize that the 1,000 feet offset for high-hazard dams could be challenged if it is not within your dam easement. We suggest that you use the 1,000 feet offset regardless of your easement. If you get challenged, contact OCC for legal advice.