

STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROCK DAM



Definition

A rock embankment located to capture sediment.

Purpose

To retain sediment on the construction site and prevent sedimentation in off site water bodies.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

The rock dam may be used instead of the standard sediment basin with barrel and riser. The rock dam is preferred when it is difficult to construct a stable, earthen embankment and rock materials are readily available. The site should be accessible for periodic sediment removal. This rock dam should not be located in a perennial stream. The top of the dam will serve as the overflow outlet. The inside of the dam will be faced with smaller stone to reduce the rate of seepage so a sediment pool forms during runoff events.

Design Criteria

Drainage Area: The drainage area for this off stream structure is limited to 50 acres.

Location: The location of the dam should:

- provide a large area to trap sediment
- intercept runoff from disturbed areas
- be accessible to remove sediment
- not interfere with construction activities

Storage Volume: The storage volume behind the dam shall be at least 3,600 cubic feet per acre of drainage area to the dam. This volume is measured one foot below the crest of the dam.

Dam Section:

Top Width	5 feet minimum @ crest
Side Slopes	2:1 upstream slope 3:1 downstream slope
Height	6' max to spillway crest

Length of Crest: The crest length should be designed to carry the 10 yr. peak runoff with a flow depth of 1 foot and 1 foot of freeboard.

Rock at the abutments should extend at least 2 feet above the spillway and be at least 2 feet thick. These rock abutments should extend at least one foot above the downstream slope to prevent abutment scour. A rock apron at least 1.5 feet thick should extend downstream from the toe of the dam a distance equal to the height of the dam to protect the outlet area from scour.

Rock Fill: The rock fill should be well graded, hard, erosion resistant stone with a minimum d_{50} size of 9 inches. A "key trench" lined with geotextile filter fabric should be installed in the soil foundation under the rock fill. The filter fabric must extend from the key trench to the downstream edge of the apron and abutments to prevent soil movement and piping under the dam.

The upstream face of the dam should be covered with a fine gravel (NYS-DOT #1 washed stone or equal) a minimum 3 feet thick to reduce the drainage rate.

Trapping Efficiency: To obtain maximum trapping efficiency, design for a long detention period. Usually a minimum of eight (8) hours before the basin is completely drained. Maximize the length of travel of sediment laden water from the inlet to the drain. Achieve a surface area equal to 0.01 acres per cfs (inflow) based on the 10-year storm.

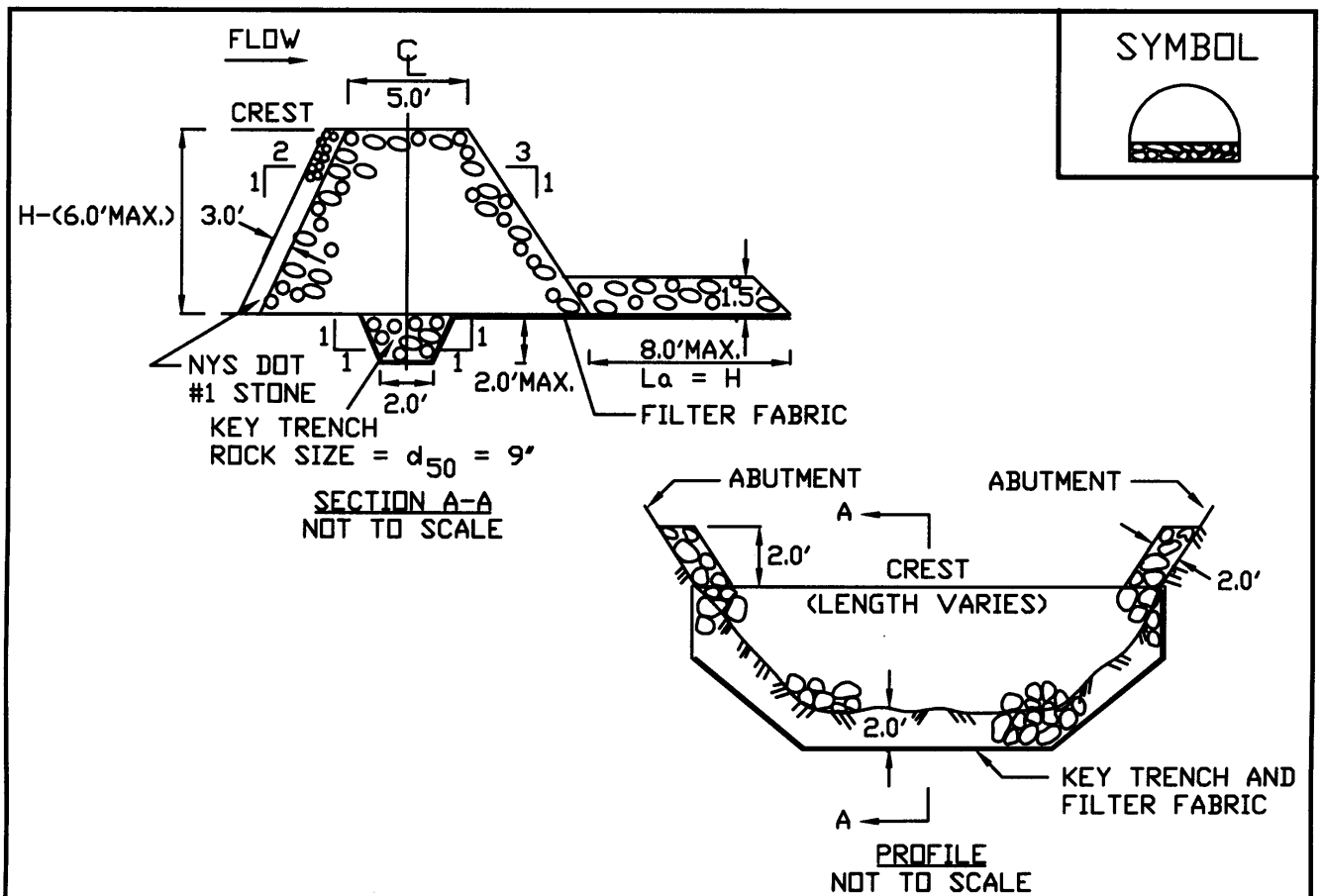
See Figure 5A.10 on page 5A.26 for details.

Maintenance

Check the basin area after each rainfall event. Remove sediment and restore original volume when sediment accumulates to one-half the design volume. Check the structure for erosion, piping, and rock displacement after each significant event and replace immediately.

Remove the structure and any sediment immediately after the construction area has been permanently stabilized. All water should be removed from the basin prior to the removal of the rock dam. Sediment should be placed in designated disposal areas and not allowed to flow into streams or drainage ways during structure removal.

**Figure 5A.10
Rock Dam**



CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

1. THE AREA UNDER THE ROCK DAM SHALL BE CLEARED AND STRIPPED OF ROOTS AND OTHER OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL. THE RESERVOIR SHALL BE CLEARED AS NEEDED TO FACILITATE SEDIMENT REMOVAL.
2. DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE MINIMUM. TRENCH SHALL BE EXCAVATED FROM ABUTMENT TO ABUTMENT ON THE DAM CENTERLINE. FILTER FABRIC SHALL BE PLACED FROM UPSTREAM EDGE OF KEYTRENCH TO DOWNSTREAM EDGE OF APRON. JOINTS WILL LAP A MINIMUM OF 1 FT. WITH UPSTREAM STRIP ON TOP.
3. CONSTRUCT THE ROCK EMBANKMENT TO THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THE DRAWING. ROCK ABUTMENTS SHALL BE MAINTAINED 2 FT. ABOVE THE CREST.
4. THE ROCK DAM SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED PRIOR TO CLEARING THE BASIN AREA. STABILIZE ALL DISTURBED AREAS, EXCEPT THE BASIN AREA, WITH TEMPORARY SEEDING.
5. FENCES AND WARNING SIGNS SHOULD BE PLACED AS APPROPRIATE.

MAXIMUM DRAINAGE AREA: 50 ACRES

ADAPTED FROM DETAILS PROVIDED BY: USDA - NRCS,
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION,
NEW YORK STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

ROCK DAM