

For: State and County Offices

**Electronic Funds Control (E-FC) for Conservation and Environmental Programs**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management



**1 Overview**

**A**

**Background**

The need for improved funds control necessitated implementing an automated funds control process. This process will provide real-time funds control for programs with a spending limitation. The E-FC process consists of a web application that works in conjunction with the AS/400 and the System 36 software.

The E-FC process will be initiated when a program has an appropriation or funding limitation. A national level allocation will be entered into the e-Funds web application by the Financial Management Division (FMD). The State and County Office level allotments will be entered in the web application by either National or State Office Program Managers.

**Note:** The initial implementation of conservation programs require the allotments to be recorded at the County Office level.

Allotments will be sent from the web application to the applicable State and County Office AS/400's to update funds availability. When a payment subject to funds control is requested, a determination of funds availability will be performed on the System 36 during the interface process with the AS/400. The additional System 36 processing should be transparent to the user. However, new screens and messages may appear during the interface.

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<b>Disposal Date</b>  June 1, 2003	<b>Distribution</b>  State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
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## Notice FI-2556

### 1 Overview (Continued)

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#### B

##### Purpose

This notice:

- advises State and County Offices that conservation programs will be using the E-FC process
  - informs the user of new messages that may appear.
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#### C

##### Effective Date

Payment requests for programs requiring funds control will use the E-FC process effective November 1, 2002.

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#### D

##### Contact

If there are any questions about this notice, contact George Sakacs, FMD, at 703-305-1304.

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### 2 Critical Software Updates on the Service Center System

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#### A

##### Required Software Installations

The E-FC process uses new technology that has been included in multiple AS/400 software releases. Release numbers and software information for the E-FC process are as follows.

Release Number	Software Name	Software Function
AS/400 Release 6	MQSeries	A message processing application that will send funds control updates between Service Centers and the electronic funds control web application.
AS/400 Release 10	Websphere	An internet-based application server that facilitates processing of the funds control information.
AS/400 Release 14	e-Funds	Software to support the control and reporting of funds.
System 36 Release 496-S	Data Control and Check Writing	Software to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• verify funds are available before disbursing</li><li>• update funds control balances.</li></ul>

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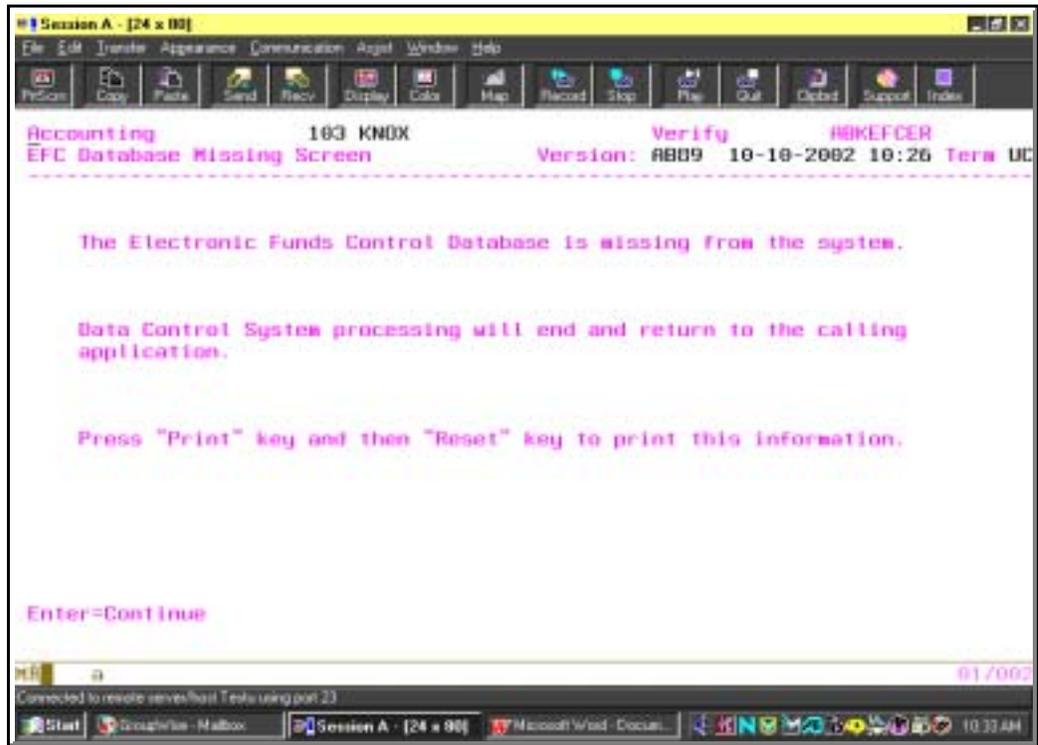
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## 2 Critical Software Updates on the Service Center System (Continued)

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### B Improper Installation

If all required releases have **not** been installed properly and/or the AS/400 database is **not** available, the following screen will be displayed and no funds controlled program payment requests will be processed until successful installation occurs.



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## Notice FI-2556

### 2 Critical Software Updates on the Service Center System (Continued)

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#### B Improper Installation (Continued)

The following screen is a sample error message the calling application will display when the DCS verification process rejects any payment request.



**Solution:** If either of the screens in this subparagraph are displayed, contact the National Help Desk through the State Office computer specialist for assistance.

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### 3 Conservation Programs Subject to E-FC

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#### A

#### Automated Programs

E-FC is being implemented for the following programs:

- ACP, Annual Agreements
- ACP, Long Term Agreement
- ECP, Cerro Grande Fires
- ECP, Drought
- ECP, Floods
- ECP, Hurricanes/Typhoons
- ECP, Maple Producers
- ECP, Mid West Floods
- ECP, Other Emergencies
- ECP, Tornadoes
- EQIP, Ground and Surface Water Conservation
- EQIP, Klamath Basin
- EQIP, All Programs Years
- EQIP, NRCS
- Interim EQIP, Annual Agreement
- Interim EQIP, Long Term Agreement
- Pasture Recovery Program

**Note:** CRP is not included in the E-FC system at this time.

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#### B

#### Nonautomated Programs

E-FC is being implemented for the following nonautomated programs administered by NRCS and disbursed at the State or County Office:

- Interim EQIP, Colorado River Salinity Control Program
- Interim EQIP, Great Plains Conservation Program
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program
- Soil and Water Conservation Assistance Program
- EQIP Educational Assistance.

**Note:** NRCS maintains funds control over WRP and therefore it is not included in FSA's E-FC system.

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**Notice FI-2556**

**3 Conservation Programs Subject to E-FC (Continued)**

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**C**

**Initial Allotment  
Load**

The initial State and County Office allotments in the E-FC system are based on the September 30, 2002, Conservation-305 Monthly Progress Report transmitted to Kansas City. Both the State and County Office allocations were adjusted by subtracting the Performance Reported Earned amount in FY 2002 (column 6 on the 305 report) to arrive at the FY 2003 starting allotment.

**Note:**

If the September 30, 2002, progress report transmission was not received by Kansas City by the cutoff date, data from the last successful transmission was used.

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**D**

**Program Funds  
Availability  
Inquiry**

County Office access to the E-FC Web application will be granted in the near future. This access will provide the capability to view the funds allotted to the County Office, disbursements and collections recorded, and the resulting funds available balance.

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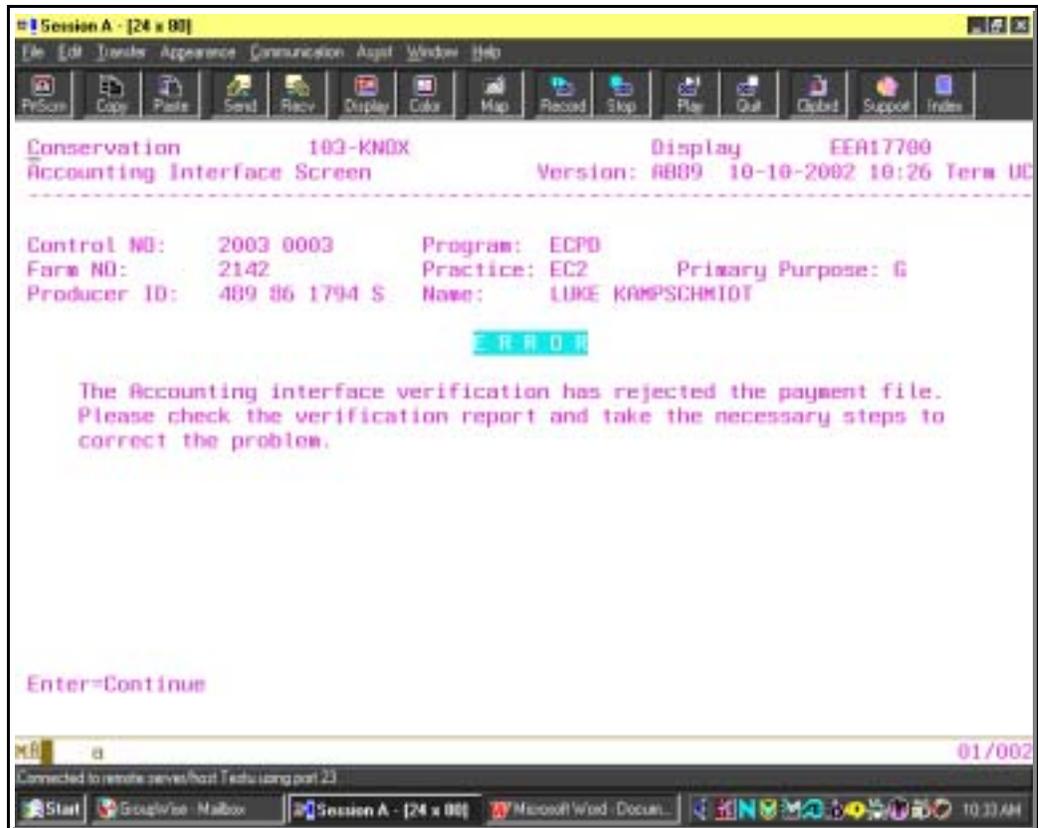
## 4 System 36 Processing

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### A Payments Initiated Through a Conservation Program Application

Most of the E-FC processing will be transparent to the user. The Data Control System (DCS) verification process has been enhanced to determine funds availability for each E-FC payment request.

When DCS verifies funds availability and the payment exceeds the funds available, the following application screen will be displayed.



**Solution:** Retrieve the Funds Control Exception Report ABKVFR-R001 from the system printer and contact the State Office. See subparagraph C for an example of Report ABKVFR-R001.

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4 System 36 Processing (Continued)

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**B**  
**NRCS Payment**  
**Initiated**  
**Through**  
**Accounting**  
**Application**

When a nonautomated payment request through Check Writing is processed and funds are not available, the following screen will be displayed.



**Solution:** Retrieve Report ABKVFR-R001 from the system printer and contact the State Office. See subparagraph C for an example of Report ABKVFR-R001.

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**Notice FI-2556**

**4 System 36 Processing (Continued)**

**C**

**Funds Control Exception Report** When an error is encountered, Report ABKVFR-R001 will print on the system printer. The report will display the following for the Service Center:

- program
- requested amount
- funds available amount
- application name
- status of the allocation and allotment.

The following is an example of Report ABKVFR-R001.

LOUISIANA TANGIPAHOA Report ID: ABKVFR-R001		USDA-FSA Funds Control Exception Report		Prepared: 11-01-2002  Page: 1			
Program	Requested Amount	Funds Available Amount	Application Name	Aloc Actv	Aloc Susp	Alot Actv	Alot Susp
AUTOECPD	\$250.00	\$45,600.00	Conservation	Y	N	N	N

**Note:** In the example, the allotment has been made “Inactive” and therefore disbursements cannot be issued.

The following table describes the allocation and allotment status columns of Report ABKVFR-R001.

Column Title	Description	Status Description	
Aloc Actv	Allocation Activity Status	Y - Allocation is active, disbursements issued.	N - Allocation is inactive for the program and no disbursements issued.
Aloc Susp	Allocation Suspense Status	Y - Allocation for the program has been suspended and no disbursements issued.	N - Allocation for the program is not suspended, disbursements issued.
Alot Actv	Allotment Activity Status	Y - Allotment is active and disbursements issued.	N - Allotment is inactive and no disbursements issued.
Alot Susp	Allocation Suspense Status	Y - Allotment is active and no disbursements issued.	N - Allotment is not suspended, disbursements issued.

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4 System 36 Processing (Continued)

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**D**

**Reload/System  
Restore**

If a reload/system restore is necessary, files from the System 36 will need to be reloaded on the AS/400. The National Help Desk must be contacted to assist with the file/system restore. The following screen will be displayed when a payment request is made if a reload/system restore occurs and the AS/400 is not properly restored.

```
Accounting      105 TANGIPAOA      Verify      ABKEFCBK
EFC Backup Table Files Screen      Version: AC51 10-30-2002 11:38 Term B1
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One or more of the Electronic Funds Control (E-FC) Backup Table Files exists
on this system. Your E-FC Databases may contain incomplete information.

Print this screen and contact the National Help Desk for assistance.

System processing will be returned to FAX250.

Enter=Continue
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