

function in the territory described in the petition. Such petition shall set forth:

- (1) The proposed name of said district;
- (2) That there is need, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, for a soil conservation district to function in the territory described in the petition;
- (3) A description of the territory proposed to be organized as a district, which description shall not be required to be given by metes and bounds or by legal sub-divisions, but shall be deemed sufficient if generally accurate;
- (4) A request that the State soil conservation committee duly define the boundaries for such districts; that a referendum be held within the territory so defined on the question of the creation of a soil conservation district in such territory; and that the committee determine that such a district be created.

Where more than one petition is filed covering parts of the same territory, the State soil conservation committee may consolidate all or any such petitions.

B. Within thirty (30) days after such a petition has been filed with the State soil conservation committee, it shall cause due notice to be given of a proposed hearing upon the question of the desirability and necessity, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, of the creation of such district, upon the question of the appropriate boundaries to be assigned to such district, upon the propriety of the petition and other proceedings taken under this sub-title, and upon all questions relevant to such inquiries. All occupiers of land within the limits of the territory described in the petition, and of lands within any territory considered for addition to such described territory, and all other interested parties, shall have the right to attend such hearings and to be heard. If it shall appear upon the hearing that it may be desirable to include within the proposed district territory outside of the area within which due notice of the hearing has been given, the hearing shall be adjourned and due notice of further hearing shall be given throughout the entire area considered for inclusion in the district, and such further hearing held. After such hearing, if the committee shall determine, upon the facts presented at such hearing and upon such other relevant facts and information as may be available, that there is need, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, for a soil conservation district to function in the territory considered at the hearing, it shall make and record such determination, and shall define, by metes and bounds or by legal sub-divisions, the boundaries of such district. In making such determination and in defining such boundaries, the committee shall give due weight and consideration to the topography of the area considered and of the State, the composition of soils therein, the distribution of erosion, the prevailing land-use practices, the desirability and necessity of including within the boundaries the particular lands under consideration and the benefit such lands may receive from being included within such boundaries, the relation of the proposed area to existing watersheds and agricultural regions, and to other soil conservation districts already organized or proposed for organization under the provisions of this sub-title, and such other physical, geographical, and economic factors as are relevant, having due regard to the legislative determinations set forth in section 46 of this Article. The territory to be included within such boundaries need not be contiguous. If the committee shall determine after such hearing, after due consideration of the said