

Report Card for North Carolina's Infrastructure – 2009 Update  
**DAMS**

**Overview**

Twenty-three percent of North Carolina's 5,397 dams are classified as high hazard, an increase of one percent since 2006. The estimated cost to rehabilitate the most critically deficient structures is approximately \$400 million. **As a result, the state's dam infrastructure grade remains a D.**

**Recommendations and Progress**

- Increase staff and budget levels for the Dam Safety Office to accommodate for current and future inspection needs and permitting reviews.
- Develop a comprehensive information resource system to support the maintenance and improvement of dam safety.
- Develop emergency action plans for all high hazard dams in the state by 2010.

The number of dams in North Carolina, by hazard classification, is as follows:

<i>Hazard Classification</i>	<i>Number of Dams 2006</i>	<i>Number of Dams 2008</i>
High	1,148	1,218
Intermediate	764	768
Low	3,338	3,411

The annual budget for North Carolina's entire dam safety program is less than \$1.2 million. If problems are discovered during the inspection, a notice of deficiency (NOD) letter is sent to the owner. There are currently more than 224 NODs outstanding in North Carolina, a 60 percent increase since 2006.

**Grade Breakdown**

**Funding** – Due to a lack of a consistent source funding F (33%)  
**Emergency Action Plans** - Plans do not meet current federal guidelines F (33%)  
**Condition** – Only 15 percent of dams inspected received NOD letters last year B (33%)

**Overall: D**