

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

**Overview**

North Carolina has documented a need of over \$4 billion of additional wastewater infrastructure investment needs through year 2030. These funds are needed to replace aging facilities, comply with mandated Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations and provide as well as keep pace with economic development. Additionally, specific water quality degradation within certain river basins has warranted promulgation of specific regulations aimed at further reduction of nutrients being discharged into receiving waters. These specific basin rules are a direct result of fish kills and algae blooms that brought national attention and unfavorable press to North Carolina. Although the documented wastewater related fish kills and algae blooms are decreasing, the tightened discharge limits and on-going population growth, coupled with aging infrastructure, is stressing public utilities' ability to remain compliant. If continued funding needs are not met, the state risks reversing the improved public health and economic gains that have been realized over the past 30 years. **As a result, the state's wastewater infrastructure is assigned a grade of C+.**

**Recommendations and Progress**

- The state's general assembly and public supported funding of several wastewater infrastructure projects through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Rural Center Clean Water Partners Program and the State Revolving Loan Fund low interest loan program.
- Several municipalities and utilities have improved their wastewater collection system through the reduction of inflow and infiltration (I&I). Examples of progress include:
  - Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (\$2,802,910 committed to I/I reduction).
  - Town of Ahoskie (\$1,989,988 committed to I/I reduction).
  - Town of Beaufort (\$7,414,000 committed to I/I reduction).
  - City of Clinton (\$4,000,000 committed to I/I reduction).Each utility should provide increased funding for wastewater collection system improvements.
- Engage the state's utilities' managers to develop sound and equitable utility rates that encourage water efficiency.

**Grade Breakdown**

|  |           |       |
|--|-----------|-------|
| <b>Ability to match required improvements with available funds</b> | C         | (33%) |
| <b>Physical Condition</b>  | C+        | (33%) |
| <b>Ability to meet funding needs without state subsidy</b>         | C+        | (33%) |
| <b>Overall:</b>  | <b>C+</b> |       |