



WASTEWATER PROJECTS COMMON CRITERIA

General Statute 159G-23 established common criteria for wastewater and stormwater projects for state funding agencies. One of the requirements included in the legislation is that CWMTF may not provide wastewater grant funds to local governments that do not meet the high-unit-cost threshold.

COMMON CRITERIA INFORMATION (Put an “x” in one shaded box per criteria)

1. <u>Public Necessity</u> – Applicant to demonstrate how proposed project will protect the environment. Priority is given, in the following order, to projects:	
a. that are: i) not compliant with permits, ii) under Department orders, iii) enabling the lifting of a moratorium, or iv) replaces failing septic tanks w/collection systems.	
b. Projects that do not meet above criteria.	
Briefly explain answer:	
2. <u>Effect on impaired waters</u> –A project that improves an impaired water body (303(d) listing) receives priority.	
Briefly explain answer:	
3. <u>Efficiency</u> – Priority is given to projects involving regionalization, reuse or water conservation.	
Briefly explain answer:	
4. <u>Comprehensive Land Use Plan</u> – Priority is given, in the following order, to projects that are located in a city or county that has:	
a. Adopted a comprehensive water quality-based land-use plan that exceeds the minimum State standards for a water resource.	
b. Adopted a water quality-based land-use plan that meets State standards.	
c. Taken significant steps towards adopting a water quality-based land-use plan.	
d. Taken no steps toward adoption of a water quality-based land-use plan.	
Briefly explain answer:	
5. <u>Flood Hazard Ordinance</u> – Priority is given, in the following order, to	

projects that are located in a city or county that has:	
a. Adopted a flood-hazard prevention ordinance that exceeds minimum State standards. Project or portion is in the floodplain.	
b. Adopted a flood-hazard prevention ordinance that meets minimum State standards. Project or portion is in the floodplain.	
c. Not adopted a floodplain ordinance. Project or portion is in the floodplain.	
d. No portion of the project is in a 100-yr floodplain. Project not penalized.	
Briefly explain answer:	

6. <u>Sound Management</u> – Priority will be given to local government units that have demonstrated a willingness and ability to meet their responsibilities through sound fiscal policies and efficient operation.	
Briefly explain answer:	

7. <u>Capital Improvement Plan</u> – Priority is given, in the following order, to projects that will:	
a. Implement the applicant’s 10-yr Capital Improvement Plan.	
b. Not implement the above plan.	
Briefly explain answer:	

8. <u>Coastal Habitat Protection</u> – Priority is given, in counties subject to a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, in the following order to projects that:	
a. Implement a recommendation of a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan.	
b. Do not implement a recommendation of a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan.	
c. Projects in counties not affected by a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. Project not penalized.	
Briefly explain answer:	

9. <u>Economic Distress</u> - Priority is given, for wastewater projects only, in the following order, to local government projects on the basis of economic distress rankings:	
a. Tier 1 - Particularly distressed municipality in a Tier 1 county	
b. Tier 1	
c. Tier 2 - Particularly distressed municipality in a Tier 2 county	
d. Tier 2	
e. Tier 3 - Particularly distressed municipality in a Tier 3 county	
f. Tier 3	

HIGH UNIT COST (HUC) THRESHOLD

A. Complete the table below.

Actual average monthly water and sewer rate for residential customers ¹	
Expected average combined monthly water and sewer rate for residential customers after completion of the project	
High Unit Cost for the county ²	
High Unit Cost for the municipality ²	

¹When providing monthly water and sewer rates, use actual average usage (not a theoretical amount such as 5,000 gal/month) for residential customers only. Include in-town and out-of-town residential customers and base the average bill calculation on at least 12 months of data. Refer to Guidance for Determining Current Average Water/Sewer Bill on CWMTF webpage for more details.

²Current HUC figures can be obtained by contacting the NC Construction and Loan Section at (919) 733-6900.

B. Include the calculation and supporting information for the determination of current average water/sewer bill with your application.

C. *If any of the conditions listed below apply to the Applicant, then the Applicant must adopt a formal resolution stating that the rates will be increased, or for a new system, rates will be established to be at or above the updated HUC threshold prior to entering into a grant agreement with CWMTF. Additionally, evidence must be provided that rates have been increased, as per the resolution, before CWMTF will draft the grant agreement.*

- *The applicant's current average monthly water/sewer bill is below the HUC threshold,*
- *The applicant does not currently have water or sewer customers*
- *The applicant has water customers only and does not currently have any sewer customers,*

Mark one of the following that is applicable:

_____ Our average water/sewer bill is currently at or above the HUC threshold.

_____ Our average water/sewer bill is currently below the HUC threshold and we do intend to raise rates as needed to be at or above the HUC threshold. We will pass a resolution to raise rates and send it to CWMTF by _____(date).

_____ Our average water/sewer bill is currently below the HUC threshold and we do not intend to raise rates as needed to be at or above the HUC threshold.

_____ We do not currently have a water or sewer system. We do intend to establish rates as needed to be at or above the UC threshold. We will pass a resolution to establish rates and sent it to CWMTF by _____ (date).

_____ We do not currently have a water or sewer system. We do not intend to establish rates as needed to be at or above the HUC threshold.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND STATUS

A. State specifically what the CWMTF funds will be used for (*e.g., 10,000 feet of collection line to transport waste from eliminated failing septic systems to a WWTP; repair clarifier; install irrigation equipment for a reuse project; slip line 8,000 feet of sewer lines.*)

B. Project Design (choose one)

_____ will be started after the CWMTF grant has been awarded.

_____ is being prepared, is approximately _____ % complete, and is expected to be complete (date) _____.

_____ has been completed and is ready for solicitation of construction bids.

_____ has been completed and construction bids have been obtained.

Provide clarification or additional comments if needed:

C. Project Permits (choose one)

_____ will be started after the CWMTF grant has been awarded.

_____ are in preparation, are approximately _____ % complete, and are expected to be complete (date) _____.

_____ have been completed and are ready to be submitted to permitting agencies.

_____ have been completed and permits have been obtained.

Provide clarification or additional comments if needed:

D. Wastewater grants will have the following clause included in the grant agreement.

Pursuant to NCGS 113A-254(f), this Grant award shall be withdrawn if the Grant Recipient fails to enter into a construction contract for the Project within one year after the Effective Date, unless the CWMTF Board of Trustees finds that Grant Recipient has good cause for the failure. If the Trustees find good cause for Grant Recipient's failure, the Trustees must set a date by which Grant Recipient must take action or forfeit the grant.

Regarding this clause, if your project includes construction are you as Grant Recipient prepared to commit to this clause and to enter into a construction contract by January 1, 2010, assuming an Effective Date of December 1, 2008?

_____ Yes, we commit to entering into a construction contract by January 1, 2010.

_____ No, we cannot commit to entering into a construction contract by January 1, 2010.

E. Are value-added products (for example, energy, compost, or fertilizer) a part of this proposal?

LAND USE

A. Is there a local land use plan for the county or municipality in which the project will occur?

B. Are there any environmental laws rules or regulations (existing or pending) that restrict the use or marketability of the property on which the project will occur?

RECEIVING WATER INFORMATION

A. What is the 7Q10 of the receiving stream? *The 7Q10 of a stream represents the lowest average stream flow that would be expected to occur for seven consecutive days once in ten years.*

B. What is the proximity of the discharge to the identified impairment in receiving waters?

EXPECTED WATER QUALITY BENEFITS

A. Complete the table below.

Volume of wastewater discharge to be reduced or eliminated (gal or MG)	
Concentration and/or mass of waste reduced or eliminated in discharge (mg/l or lbs)	
Volume of untreated waste entering surface waters that will be eliminated (gal or MG)	
Pounds of nutrients currently entering surface waters that will be eliminated (lb)	
Number of spills eliminated	
Volume of spills eliminated (gal)	

B. Have you planned any water quality monitoring beyond requirements of the NPDES or nondischarge programs?

LOCAL MEASURES

A. What local measures (such as stormwater management, buffer protection, soil erosion and sediment control program, public education) has the community implemented or will the community complete to balance any increase in pollutant loading that may occur as a result of this project? *You may summarize this information on a separate page.*

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A. Provide the following information:

County Tier	
Population of community	
Number of residential customers that will be served	
Number of industrial customers that will be served	
Total water and sewer budget for your community	
Rate for new sewer connection	

CURRENT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SERVING PROJECT AREA

A. If there is not a WWTP serving your project area skip to the next section concerning a new or other WWTP.

Current facility information

Facility name	
NPDES permit number	
Design flow (MGD)	
Annual average flow (MGD)	

Number of discharge pipes	
Level of treatment	
Proposed level of treatment after completion of this project	

B. Is your WWTP currently in compliance?

C. List any Special Orders by Consent and amendments, Judicial Orders(s) and amendments, Civil Penalty Assessments(s) and Notice of Violation(s) received in the past four years (*please include issue date, parameter of concern, and status [active or nonactive]*):

D. Briefly describe any actions taken during the past three years to maximize the efficiency of the facility.

E. Provide a map showing the location of your WWTP and the discharge point in relation to surface waters of the State.

F. Provide a copy of your NPDES permit(s).

NEW OR OTHER WWTP SERVING THE PROJECT AREA

A. If your project involves a new or a different WWTP than is currently serving the project area, provide the following information. If this does not pertain to your project, skip to the next section.

B. Is this a new or existing WWTP?

C. Facility information

Facility name	
NPDES permit number	
Design flow (MGD)	
Annual average flow (MGD)	
Number of discharge pipes	
Level of treatment	
Receiving stream name	

D. List any Special Orders by Consent and amendments, Judicial Orders(s) and amendments, Civil Penalty Assessments(s) and Notice of Violation(s) received in the past four years by the plant that will receive the wastewater:

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund may require that property acquired, developed or improved with grant assistance from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund be placed under a permanent Conservation Easement to be held by the State of North Carolina. The CWMTF will consider a local government or Soil and Water Conservation District holding the conservation easement on a case-by-case basis. Please read "[Information on Conservation Easements](#)" to become familiar with these potential requirements.

Please read **CWMTF Application Instructions and Consideration** for potential contract conditions for CWMTF Wastewater projects.

QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO DIFFERENT WASTEWATER PROJECT TYPES
Answer the questions below that relate to your project.

Repair or expansion of existing WWTP

- A. What is the purpose of the repair?
- B. Why is this repair needed?
- C. What is the purpose of the expansion?
- D. Why is the expansion needed?
- E. What upgrades are currently mandated by the NC Division of Water Quality?
- F. What part of the proposal is over and above current compliance requirements?
- G. Provide any changes expected in your NPDES permit from this project.

Decommission WWTP (including regionalization efforts)

- A. What are the estimated costs in moving your discharge to the proposed disposal site or regional WWTP?
- B. Provide a map showing:
 - 1. location of regional plant
 - 2. all communities served by the WWTP and
 - 3. all communities proposed to join the WWTP through this project.
- C. Would the project result in a net reduction of pollutant loading to surface waters? If so, how much would the loading be reduced?
- D. If your project is for regionalization of wastewater treatment, what are the costs of upgrading the existing WWTPs versus the regionalization project?

Sewer rehabilitation and/or replacement

- A. Please provide documentation of the areas of leakage and overflow to surface waters; include evidence of surface water contamination.
- B. Briefly describe any actions taken in the last three years to identify or minimize infiltration and inflow.
- C. Will the project rehabilitate sewers in place, or replace the sewers, or a combination of both?
- D. Summary of proposed work:

Linear feet of sewer to be rehabilitated	
Diameter of sewer to be rehabilitated	
Linear feet of sewer to be replaced	
Diameter of sewer to be replaced	
Number of manholes to be rehabilitated	
Number of manholes to be replaced	

Repair failing septic systems or eliminate straight pipes

- A. What approach are you taking to eliminate failing septic systems or straight pipes? (repair, replace, remove and provide sewer service)
- B. What is the distance from the area of the failing septic tanks or straight pipes to the nearest surface waters?
- C. Please provide a map showing the project area with failing septic systems or straight pipes and all streams in the area.
- D. Please provide documentation of the areas of septic system failures or straight pipes, and their impairment of surface waters.
 - Include photographs, water quality monitoring results, and surveys from the Local Environmental Health Department

Total number of septic systems to be addressed	
Number of failing systems to be addressed	
Average age of septic systems that are failing	
Number of straight pipes to be addressed	
Estimated volume of wastewater to receive upgraded treatment	

- E. Please describe any actions taken in the last three years to address failing systems or straight pipes in the project area.

Install/expand wastewater collection system

- A. What is the purpose of the expansion of the wastewater collection system?
- B. Would all existing users in the service area be required to hook up to the collection system?
- C. Would new users in the service area be required to hook up to the collection system?

Nondischarge (land application of wastewater)

- A. If the land is purchased with funding from CWMTF, are you willing to put a State-held easement or deed restriction on the property?
- B. What are the estimated costs in moving your discharge to the proposed disposal site?
- C. If only land is purchased with funding from CWMTF, what sources of funding do you have to move the discharge?

Reuse of wastewater

- A. Projected reuse volumes (MGD)

Annual average volume of reuse	
Summer average volume of reuse	
Winter average volume of reuse	

- B. Will this reuse project lower your NPDES permit flow? If so, will you request a modification to your NPDES permit to reduce the permitted flow?
- C. List the customers and describe how they will use reclaimed water. Group any residential users into one category. Indicate if you have a written agreement with customers.
- D. Would the project result in a consumptive reuse of wastewater (for example, reusing wastewater, instead of potable water sources, for industry or for landscape irrigation)?
- E. Would the project result in a net reduction of groundwater or surface water withdrawals? If yes, how many gallons per day groundwater or surface water would not be withdrawn?

Backup power generation

There are no additional questions for this category.