



**American Water Works  
Association**

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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

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## **Public Affairs Advisory**

**TO: AWWA Leadership  
All Utilities**

**FROM: AWWA Public Affairs**

**DATE: January 26, 2009**

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| <b>Who:</b>  | <b>American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)</b>    |
| <b>What:</b> | <b>2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure</b> |
| <b>When:</b> | <b>Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 10:00 AM (EST)</b>   |

On Wednesday, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will release components of its 2009 "Report Card for America's Infrastructure," with updated letter grades for the condition of U.S. drinking water and wastewater systems, roads, bridges, transit systems, schools and other infrastructure.

The initial report will be issued at 10:00 AM EST at a press conference in Washington, D.C. ASCE will release its full report on March 25. ASCE decided to release parts of the report this week to encourage the U.S. Congress to include infrastructure funding in the economic stimulus package now being considered.

In 2005, when ASCE last issued the report, the organization gave U.S. infrastructure an overall grade of D, with a specific grade of D- for drinking water. The report maintained that the nation needed to invest \$1.6 trillion over five years to improve the situation, and that water utilities faced an annual shortfall of \$11 billion for infrastructure repairs.

Previous ASCE Report Card reports have spawned media coverage, and it's possible that local utilities will be contacted by area media outlets for comment on the letter grade. In the event that local reporters call with questions about the infrastructure of your locality, utilities should be prepared to give information on infrastructure upgrades in your community.

Prior to the release of the report, AWWA will issue an advisory to the media indicating that a

spokesperson is available to address the relevant water infrastructure matters. AWWA will then release a brief statement on water infrastructure the day the report is issued.

Information related to AWWA's efforts to support water infrastructure investment in the stimulus bill can be found at [www.awwa.org/jobcreation](http://www.awwa.org/jobcreation).

AWWA's Public Affairs Office is available to assist with any questions or to provide additional information. Please contact Greg Kail, [gkail@awwa.org](mailto:gkail@awwa.org), 303-734-3410, or Deirdre Mueller, [dmueller@awwa.org](mailto:dmueller@awwa.org), 303-347-6140.

For more information on the report card, visit ASCE at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).

Information on previous ASCE Report Cards is available online at [www.asce.org/reportcard](http://www.asce.org/reportcard).

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