



# Fact Sheet About the Nation's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

## The Problem\*

### Deteriorating Infrastructure

- America's water systems include approximately 800,000 miles of water pipe and 600,000 miles of sewer line, which span more than 8 times the length of the National Highway System.
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has given our nation's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure a D grade.
- The vast majority of the nation's pipe network was installed after World War II and has reached or is nearing the end of its useful life.
- Water pipes in the US that are classified as poor, very poor or life-elapsd will increase from 10 percent to 44 percent by 2020.
- Restoring existing drinking water systems and expanding them to serve a growing population will cost at least \$1 trillion over the next 25 years.
- By 2030, average utility will spend about 3.5 times as much on pipe replacement as it does today.

### Funding Gap

- America's infrastructure spending in real inflation-adjusted dollars is at about the same level as it was in 1968 when the economy was much smaller.
- Unless funding increases, the funding gap by 2020 will be between \$84 and \$224 billion according to estimates by American Society of Civil Engineers and U.S. EPA.

### Federal Role Has Diminished

- State and local governments are now responsible for approximately 98 percent of the capital investments for wastewater infrastructure.
- According to the US Conference of Mayors, in 2005, 95% of the funds for water and wastewater infrastructure were born by state and local government without federal assistance or subsidies.

### Inefficiencies and Lack of Reliability Drive Up Costs

- Unless new investments are made by 2020, unreliable and insufficient water infrastructure will cost the average American household \$900 a year in higher water rates and lower wages; American businesses can expect an additional \$147 billion in increased costs and the economy will lose 700,000 jobs.

### Global Competitiveness

- US has slipped to 25th in the world with regard to the state of our overall infrastructure, which negatively impacts our global competitiveness.

## The Solution\*

### Water Infrastructure Investment = Jobs & Economic Growth

- Every job in water and sewer creates 3.68 new jobs
- \$1 invested in water and sewer adds \$6.35 to the national economy
- \$1 billion invested in water infrastructure creates more than 26,000 jobs estimated by the National Association of Utility Contractors
- 90% of the jobs created by infrastructure investment are middle-class jobs

\*See <http://www.waterforjobs.org/statisticsandreports> for more information.