

SECTION 9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

The legislation mandating Local Water Supply Plans required the Division of Water Resources to estimate the technical assistance required at the local level to address projected water needs. To gather this information, the Local Water Supply Plan includes numerous questions about technical assistance. This information is summarized in Table 9-1 below.

Table 9-1. Technical Assistance Needs Reported in 1997 LWSPs
(out of 535 reporting LWSP systems)

Is technical assistance needed:	Systems Responding “YES”
to develop a local water supply plan?	92
with a leak detection program?	152
with a demand management or water conservation program?	125
with a water shortage response plan?	119
to identify alternative or future water supply sources?	117
with a capacity development plan?	106
with a wellhead or source water protection plan?	110
with water system compliance or operational problems?	63
with Consumer Confidence Reports?	135

DWR has used this information to target its technical assistance efforts, ranging from direct assistance to water systems to preparation of written materials on a variety of topics, such as water shortage response.

Many systems indicated a need for financial assistance. These needs have been partially addressed by the passage of the Clean Water and Natural Gas Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998 by the North Carolina General Assembly and by the provisions for a State Revolving Fund included in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act at the federal level.