



NC Firsts in Water

- First Water System in NC was completed in 1779 at Old Salem with first iron pipe installed in 1808. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1952).
- First Warren Gravity (Rapid Sand) Filters in NC placed in service August 1893 in Durham, NC (Eng. News, Jan. 4, 1894).
- First Water Main cleaned in Charlotte, NC in 1936). (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1946).
- First city to add fluoride to prevent tooth decay - Charlotte, NC, April 25, 1949. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1950).
- First Meter School in NC held April 21-22, 1950 in Winston-Salem. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1950).
- First water plant in NC to filter at 4 gpm/ft² - Durham, NC, November 1, 1950 - October 31, 1953 - 3-year test. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1955).
- First experimental facility for saline water conversion to drinking water constructed in Wrightsville Beach, NC in 1962.
- Mandatory certification of waterworks operators adopted in 1964.
- First large-scale alum recovery facility in US constructed in Durham, NC, February 1993.
- First water plant approved for a filtration rate of 5 gpm/sq.ft. Greenville Utilities Commission.
- First mandatory certification for distribution system operators.

NC Firsts in Wastewater

- First Sanitary Sewage Collection System in NC was constructed under supervision of Col. J. L. Ludlow in the City of Raleigh, NC between 1885 and 1890. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1953).
- First Sewage Treatment Plant in NC was constructed in 1902 in Durham near the site of the present Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant. Designed by Col. J. L. Ludlow. The plant consisted of two Cameron Type Septic Tanks followed by two sets of primary and secondary contact filters. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1947).
- First activated sludge plant constructed in Gastonia, NC in 1926.
- First engine in America running on sewage sludge gas was installed in Charlotte, NC in 1928 (Literary Digest, July 6, 1929).
- First Sewage Works Operator School was held June 6-10, 1949 at UNC-Chapel Hill. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1950).
- First resolution by NCAWWA/WPCA, November 15, 1950 in support of our “Stream Sanitation Law for NC”.
- NC AWWA/WPCA adopted a Resolution in support of first voluntary certification program for “Sewage and Industrial Waste Treatment Works Operators in November 1951. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1953).
- First Municipal Sewer Use Ordinance (Pretreatment) adopted by City of Charlotte, NC in 1950. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1955).

- First Municipal Radioactive Monitoring Program in Durham, NC in 1957. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1960).
- First Galvanic membrane dissolved oxygen analyzer developed at UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering in 1961. (J.NCAWWA/WPCA, 1960).
- First mandatory certification for wastewater operators adopted in February 1976.
- First biological nutrient removal facility.
- First mandatory certification for collection system operators adopted.