

Masthead

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## Thomasville fined \$35,000 for sewage spill

**RALEIGH** -- A state agency has fined a North Carolina city more than \$35,000 in connection with a wastewater spill that allowed nearly 16 million gallons of raw sewage to flow into a creek that feeds into a popular lake.

Thomasville initially reported the spill Aug. 3, saying 385,000 gallons of untreated wastewater had been dumped. Earlier this month, when the city submitted a revised estimate to state environmental officials, the estimate had jumped to 15.93 million gallons. State records on spills date to 1998 and show the previous largest spill was 9 million gallons in December 2002 in Raleigh.

Kelly Craver, Thomasville's city manager, said the sewage went into a tributary of North Hamby Creek, which feeds into the 15,000-acre High Rock Lake. But Yadkin Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks sent a report to the EPA's criminal investigation division in Charlotte on Aug. 27, saying an employee had told him he thought the spill began in mid-July.