



COLUMBUS LIGHT & WATER

News for the customers of Columbus, Light & Water - Summer 2021

Remembering Todd Gale Our General Manager and Friend



The Columbus Light & Water (CL&W) family will always remember Todd Gale and his accomplished career, **leadership, and love for his family, friends, and community.** But most of all, we will remember our boss for his passion to help others and his gentle laughter.

Todd had many accomplishments and served on numerous boards including Tennessee valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), Distributor Insurance Company, and American Public Power Association. Recently, the TVPPA magazine paid tribute to Todd stating that “Before his death, Todd had worked with the Columbus Housing Authority and Columbus Municipal School District on a plan to help bring high-speed internet access to low-income neighborhoods and to ensure all school children had internet access.”

There is a **heartfelt loss** by everyone he encountered. “Todd had a real special bond with people,” said Mike Bernsen, Interim General Manager at CL&W. “He would always advocate for the little guy regardless of the challenges, difficulties or obstacles. He was an out of the box thinker who did not settle for mediocrity and was always pushing to make things better for the people he served and his community. He will be truly missed by all of us.”

Please don't Feed the Fatbergs

Fats, oils and grease going down your drain grow dangerous clogs in our Columbus sewer system.

Liquid cooking oils and grease that are rinsed down your sink may seem harmless, but they are dangerous to your pipes and to the sewer system of Columbus. At higher temperatures, grease and oil is liquid, but it becomes solid and sticky when cooled. These fats coat your pipes as they leave your sink, trapping other materials that are flushing out of your house, eventually clogging pipes and causing backup problems for your home.

Over time, all of this fat and debris accumulates, causing a growing problem for sewer systems across the country. The Columbus sanitary sewer system is made up of pipes that connect the city's homes and businesses to underground sewer mains. These sewer mains take waste to Columbus's public sewage treatment facility.



Congeaed fat binds together with other materials that are flushed from toilets, such as wet wipes, feminine hygiene products and tissues, causing “fatbergs.” When fatbergs grow, they can block sewage mains, forcing raw sewage waste to back up into connecting pipes and even into storm drains. Blocked sewers can cause damage for your home, your neighborhood and our city.

Lessen your risk of sewage backups

A few simple habits will help keep your home safe and fatbergs away.

- **Pour** liquid fats into a container and seal it. When full, put it into the trash.
- **Dispose** of wet wipes (even if they say “ushable”) in the trash, do not flush them.
- Do not **discard** any other materials in the toilet - plastic, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, cotton swabs, cotton balls, bandaids, etc.

Water Quality

Data Table & Test Results Calendar Year 2020

WHERE DO WE GET OUR WATER?

Our underground water is pumped from eight wells drawing from the massive sand of the lower Tuscaloosa Aquifer.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to identify potential sources of contamination and determine the overall susceptibility of the drinking water supply. Susceptibility assessment has been completed and all wells have ranked moderate by the MDEQ for vulnerability to contamination.

CONTACT US

As a valued customer, we want you to be informed about your water utility. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Service with Columbus Light & Water at 662-328-7192, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WATER QUALITY

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemical and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

TESTING

The Columbus Light & Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and Mississippi state laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2020. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2020, the table reflects the most recent results. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, however the EPA has determined that your water is safe at these levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Columbus Light & Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing for \$10 per sample. Please contact 601-576-7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FLUORIDATION

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", MSO 440003, Columbus Light & Water is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 100%.

EXPLANATION OF REASONS FOR MONITORING UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminants monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791.

At Columbus Light & Water, we work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Please call our office if you have any questions. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

CONTAMINATE	VIOLATION Y/N	DATE COLLECTED	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS						
Chlorine	N	2020	2.0 RAA 2.20 max. mg/L 1.70 min. mg/L		4.0 mg/L	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N	2019	6.0 ppb		60 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N	2020	4.0 ppb		80 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
INORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Antimony	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.006 ppm	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solders
Arsenic	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.010 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
Barium	N	2019	0.0008 ppm* 0.0132 ppm**		2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.004 ppm	Discharge from metal refineries & coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, & defense industries
Cadium	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.005 ppm	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoffs from waste batteries and
Chromium	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm* <0.0005 ppm**		0.1 ppm	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	N	2019	<0.015 ppm		0.2 ppm	Discharge from steel/metal, plastic & fertilizer factories
Fluoride	N	2019	0.778 ppm* 0.698 ppm**		4 ppm	Water additive which promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Lead	N	2018	0 ppm		0.015 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Mercury	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.002 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and croplands
Nitrate	N	2020	<0.08 ppm */**		10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Nitrite	N	2020	<0.02 ppm */**		1 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite	N	2020	<0.1 ppm */**		10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Selenium	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.05 ppm	Discharge from petroleum refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium	N	2019	3200 ppb		none	Naturally occurring runoff; erosion from natural deposits
Thallium	N	2019	<0.0005 ppm		0.002 ppm	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass & drug factories
ORGANIC CHEMICALS						
Benzene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks & landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from chemical plants & industrial activities
CIS- 1, 2-Dichloroethylene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		70 ppb	Discharge from meat & fish or pharmaceutical industries
Dichloromethane	N	2018	<0.05 ppb		5 ppb	
Dichlorobenzene	N	2004	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
O-Dichlorobenzene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		600 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
P-Dichlorobenzene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		75 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1, 2 - Dichloroethane	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1, 1 - Dichloroethylene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		7 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1, 2 - Dichloropropane	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		700 ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Monochlorobenzene	N	2015	<0.5 ppb		100 ppb	Discharge from paint, glass & ceramic industries
Tetrachloroethylene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from factories & dry cleaners
Trans- 1, 2 - Dichloroethylene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		100 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1, 1, 1 - Trichloroethane	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		200 ppb	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & factories
Trichloroethylene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & factories
1, 1, 2 - Trichloroethane	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		5 ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1, 2, 4 - Trichlorobenzene	N	2015	<0.5 ppb		70 ppb	Discharge from textile finishing factories
Toluene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		1000 ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories
Styrene	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		100 ppb	Discharge from rubber & plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Vinyl Chloride	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		2 ppb	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from plastic factories
Xylenes	N	2018	<0.5 ppb		10000 ppb	Discharge from petroleum & chemical factories
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS						
Combined Radium	N	2019	2.32 pCi		5 pCi/L	Erosion from natural deposits
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS						
HAA5	N	2019	0.78 ppb	0.31 - 0.78 ppb	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA6Br	N	2019	0.53 ppb	0 - 0.53 ppb	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA9	N	2019	1.31 ppb	0.31 - 1.31 ppb	None	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Manganese	N	2019	0.57 ppb	0.42 - 0.57 ppb	None	Naturally occurring element

*Treatment Plant North | ** Treatment Plant South | MCL = maximum containment level | ppm = parts per million
ppb = parts per billion | mg/L = milligrams per liter | RAA = Running Annual Average | pCi/L = picocuries per liter



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Summer Energy Tips

Saving energy from the inside out.

Insulate your attic and walls, and seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking in

Keep curtains closed on the south, east and west sides of the house during the day

Use fans to keep air circulating

Perform a do-it-yourself home energy audit. Online and paper versions are available at EnergyRight.com/residential.

Change air filters monthly

Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors

Keep your outside air unit clean and clear of debris or weeds

Turn up your cooling system's thermostat to 78° F or even higher

Run your washer and dryer only when full

Set the refrigerator temperature at 36° to 39° F and freezer at 0° to 5° F

Run your dishwasher only when full

Use the microwave when possible – it cooks faster and doesn't create as much heat as a stove burner

Look for additional tips from your local power company and TVA at EnergyRight.com

