

Bringing You: Safe and Reliable Power



Marcus Rushing
Electric Division Manager



Columbus Light & Water is committed to bringing superior utility service in a safe and reliable manner. We are working each day to improve the system using new technology in system equipment, communications, and computer software systems. One of the new technologies that we will be upgrading is fiber optic communications to electronic switches, substations, and buildings. Fiber optic cable can provide near real time communications between a recloser that serves a neighborhood and a SCADA system (a fancy term for a computer system that can monitor and control remote devices) running in the Engineering office. This will provide reliable and high-speed data for us to monitor and operate the system.

We are also working to replace or upgrade many system components for improved reliability. Some of projects include:

- Replacing older transmission and distribution circuit breakers at various substations
- Replacing substation power transformers that are nearing end of life
- Reconducting overhead power lines to a larger size for loss reduction, higher capacity, and improved switching versatility throughout the system
- New intelligent electronic power line devices
- Upgraded computing systems to work with the electronic devices and high-speed fiber to relay information about system conditions and outages.

These are just a few of the current and future projects Columbus Light & Water is working on to improve the system. When you see our line professionals out working, know that each person is committed to bringing you safe and reliable power for the betterment of our community.



Columbus Light & Water
P.O. Box 949
Columbus, MS 39703

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Columbus, MS
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Whether you need assistance with your monthly bill, meeting home energy needs, or have other related needs or concerns, we have you covered! [To learn more, see the information below.](#)

CLW Share One Program
For assistance with electric and water services, contact Helping Hands at 662-328-8301.

If you would like to contribute to Share One, contact us at customerservice@columbus-lw.com or 662-328-7192.

Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
For electric service assistance, contact Prairie Opportunity at 662-328-1669.

LIHEAP/American Rescue Plan (LIHEAP/ARP)
For energy assistance resulting from economic harm caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, contact Prairie Opportunity at 662-328-1669.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
For water service assistance, contact Prairie Opportunity at 662-328-1669.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
Qualifying homeowners can have energy efficient measure installed in their homes free of charge. For assistance, contact Prairie Opportunity at 662-328-1669.

Energy Crisis Program
Customers using life support services and needing assistance with their electric and water services can contact Prairie Opportunity at 662-328-1669.



OTHER WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL



By Mail:
P.O. Box 22806
Jackson, MS 39225



By Phone:
662-328-7192



Our Website:
www.columbuslw.com



Our Mobile App:
Search "Columbus Light & Water" on iOS or Android



By Kiosk:
At various locations across Columbus, MS



Cooperative CONNECTION NEWS

SUMMER 2022 EDITION

The Power of People: News for customers of Columbus Light & Water



ACTNow: Tackling digital divide

Columbus Housing Authority (CHA) residents will soon benefit from a new pilot program to expand access to internet connectivity as well as digital technology and services —thanks to a recently awarded \$262,000 grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) coupled with a \$78,000 local match.

The project, called “ACTNow,” has been selected for funding by TVA’s Connected Communities initiative, which uses community-driven information and the newest technology solutions to address challenges that include broadband access, digital literacy training, and next-generation career options.

The ACTNow initiative, driven by a coalition made up of the CHA, Columbus, Light and Water (CLW), Resident Council of Friendly City, Rosenzweig Art Center, Mississippi State University Chapter of National Society of Black Engineers, Residency Office of Self-

Sufficiency (ROSS) of Friendly City, and TVA, aims to address the digital divide for 100 households. Together, the partners plan to provide CHA residents with access to digital literacy and tools needed to successfully engage in the digital space, according to one official.

“The funds will be used to: help our seniors access telemedicine and improve independent living; increase access to online workforce development and employment opportunities; support students with online learning; and encourage awareness and knowledge of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education,” said Debra Taylor - Director of Columbus Housing Authority. “We want to close the equity gap in the digital world by providing community connectivity and training to benefit our residents that will be sustainable and improve their quality of life.”

ACTNow is a two-year pilot program and

is expected to begin this fall by offering residents bi-monthly training with new devices and computers at the Community Resource Center located at 1515 4th St South.

“ACTNow was initiated because families in our service area lacked financial resources to own/use computers or access the internet for education, research, or career opportunities,” said Dr. Angela Verdell - General Manager for CLW. “We understood the longer this problem existed, our community would be negatively impacted by digital inequities. This program closes that gap, especially for our seniors and low-income families by providing them with connectivity access and training.”

CHA residents who complete the program will have an opportunity to receive a new devices/hotspots, said Taylor. For more information about the ACTNow program, contact the Columbus Housing Authority.

Message From our General Manager



Dr. Angela C. Verdell
General Manager

#ThePowerof People

This has been a busy and gratifying 9 months since taking on the role of General Manager of Columbus Light and Water. I have had the pleasure of working with a great CLW team who is **committed to ensuring reliable utility services** throughout the city. The beauty of a local utility lies in its people. The people of CLW are the people of our community! They work to oversee quality power systems, water distribution and treatment and answering customer calls and resolving issues. The people of CLW are the **difference makers**. In an age where many organizations are challenged with retaining a high functioning work team, this is not the issue at CLW. Our team is constantly retooling to meet the future needs of our community.

Like the rest of the world CLW is faced with supply issues and increased costs. With price increases topping nearly 300% for some chemicals and many transformers taking 18 months for delivery, CLW remains diligent as we work through these issues. Because the nature of our work is critical to the health and quality of life for our customers, **we are driven to identify innovative solutions**. We know we cannot do this important work alone. We will continue to partner with external organizations to meet the everchanging needs of the utility industry and our community. We will accomplish this with the understanding that it is only through the power of people that we are who we are and that we can do what do!

Water Functions: The Power of People



Ricky Dye
Water Division Manager

"We continue to strengthen our system by conducting metering and valve upgrades at the plants to help better track usage and allow for shutdowns and repairs. Pump upgrades at the plants help to include soft starts to help reduce wear on the pumps. Upgrading various lift stations across the city will result in improved efficiency to handle increased sewer flows. Columbus Light and Water has served the city for decades and will continue to strive for excellence in every project we undertake."

With a total of two water plants, 61 lift stations, 465 grinder pumps and one wastewater treatment facility, the women and men of CLW work around the clock to ensure safe and reliable water resources to the city. At Columbus Light and Water, we produce an average of 4.1 million gallons per day of water which equates to nearly 1.5 billion gallons over the course of the year. To understand the magnitude of what is produced, this is enough water to fill 3000 Olympic swimming pools! The water we produce is pulled from an aquifer roughly a quarter mile deep. It is then processed between the two plants and is distributed across the system. The pipes in Columbus range from ¾ inch for house services up to 30-inch for transmission lines. As the city has grown throughout the years in both population and size the smaller lines have been replaced with larger diameter lines to provide water and fire protection. Like all sewer service providers, we face issues with infiltration of ground water and rainwater to the sewer systems due to aging infrastructure. Sewer infrastructure takes in more groundwater as it ages, causing the system to become overwhelmed during heavy rain events. To combat the aging system, measures such as line replacement and pipe lining are used to reduce additional infiltration.



Water Quality

Data Table & Test Results Calendar Year 2021

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, 2021. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2021, 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 90%.

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	2021	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	2021	2.41 ppb		60 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	2021	1 ppm		15 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	2021	<0.08 ppm */**		10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Nitrite	N	2021	<0.02 ppm */**		1 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks/sewage; erosion from natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite	N	2021	<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