Dear Customer,

We are pleased to present our annual water quality report for drinking water in Columbus and Fort Benning. As you will see in this report, the drinking water supplied by Columbus Water Works (CWW) has met or exceeded all EPA and State drinking water standards.

As scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of contaminants on human health, new standards will continue to be set for the treatment of drinking water. CWW will use the best available and appropriate technology in order to continue to exceed future standards.

The professional staff at CWW work very hard to ensure that our customers have very reliable and high quality drinking water. In fact, CWW has won the “Best Drinking Tap Water Award” for our 19 County Region!

Steve Davis,
President of Columbus Water Works

What Should I Know About My Drinking Water?

Water is an essential part of life. It is vital that the water we drink is properly cleaned and monitored for safety. To help ensure the safety of drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets certain standards that every water provider must meet. These standards help to ensure that your water is safe for you and your family. It is your right to know exactly how your water measures up to these standards.

Possible Water Contaminants:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
(b) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
(c) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
(d) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
(e) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 (800-426-4791).

For additional information about the quality of your water, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Compliance and Water Quality at (706)649-3480 or visit our website www.cwwga.org.
Where's Your Water From?
The water source for Columbus and Fort Benning, Georgia is the Chattahoochee River, which is surface water. Columbus Water Works operates and treats water for its customers under permit #CS2150000. The Chattahoochee River has been providing the area with a safe and dependable water supply for 111 years.

Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP):
A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) was completed by Columbus Water Works in March 2001. The purpose of this plan is to identify potential contamination sources throughout the watershed and to determine the risk these sources pose to the water supply intake. The SWAP is regularly reviewed to ensure its accuracy. Based on the assessment, the overall contaminant susceptibility for Columbus and Fort Benning residents is LOW. Some Potential Pollution Sources (PPS) include: a marina with fuel stations, sewer lift stations and pipelines, commercial and industrial areas, residential lawns, and golf courses. A complete list of all PPS's, their substances of concern, and the assessment methods are in the SWAP. For more information, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Compliance and Water Quality at (706)649-3490 or wkent@cwwga.org.

Lead In Drinking Water:
If present, elevated levels of lead in your drinking water 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 Water Works 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Other Water Contaminants:
Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite too small to be seen without a microscope. It is common in surface waters like lakes and rivers, especially when waters contain a high amount of sewage or animal waste. This parasite can cause symptoms like diarrhea, nausea, stomach cramps, or all three. Because other illnesses can have similar symptoms, a special laboratory test is needed to determine if this contaminant is the cause. Columbus Water Works has sent both treated and source water samples from our system to laboratories set up for this parasite test. The water that goes into your tap has never tested positive for this parasite; however, it may be assumed that this parasite can be found in all surface water.

Award Winning Laboratory:
As your water utility, the Columbus Water Works sets its first priority on providing the highest quality water to our community, because our families deserve the best! It is the emphasis we place on our water quality that has allowed us to build and maintain an Award Winning Water Treatment Plant and Laboratory.

2013 Awards
Drinking Water Laboratory of the Year Award
(Georgia Association of Water Professionals)

Immuno-compromised:
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 means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
## How Your Water Measures Up...

### Drinking Water Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Substance Tested and Detected</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Amount Detected</th>
<th>Range of Detection</th>
<th>Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)</th>
<th>Does It Meet Standards?</th>
<th>Possible Source of Substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride, ppm (a)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.49 - 1.35</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Water additive which promotes strong teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrate, ppm</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride, ppm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.18 - 0.57</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haloacetic Acids (HAA), ppb (c)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12 - 42</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes (THM), ppb (c)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>34 - 56</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Organic Carbon, ppm</td>
<td>TT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.3 - 2.0</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity, NTU (b)</td>
<td>TT - 1 NTU</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.05 - 100%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Soil runoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulated Substance Tested and Detected</th>
<th>MRDL</th>
<th>MRDLC</th>
<th>Amount Detected</th>
<th>Range of Detection</th>
<th>Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)</th>
<th>Does It Meet Standards?</th>
<th>Possible Source of Substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine, ppm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.52 - 2.40</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Water additive used to control microbes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lead and Copper at the Tap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Amount Detected</th>
<th># of Sites found above AL</th>
<th>Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)</th>
<th>Does it Meet Standards?</th>
<th>Possible Source of Substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead, ppb (d)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1* (55 sites sampled)</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper, ppm (d)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0 (55 sites sampled)</td>
<td>1/13 - 12/13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Corrosion of household plumbing systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although 1 site tested above the action level, the standard of 90 percent of test sites being within the regulated limits was met.*

### Important Drinking Water Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Action Level (AL): The concentration of the contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCL</td>
<td>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCLG</td>
<td>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRDL</td>
<td>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRDLC</td>
<td>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLC): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLCs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTU</td>
<td>Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of the clarity (turbidity) of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>parts per million: One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>parts per billion: One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I I</td>
<td>Treatment Technique (I I): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤</td>
<td>less than or equal to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥</td>
<td>greater than or equal to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million.

(b) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system.

(c) The level is based on a system-wide 4-quarter running average of several samples, as required by EPA testing protocol.

(d) Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. However, under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead-soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by that water is limited to safe levels. Flushing the line before drinking will ensure your safety.
Public Meeting Information:

Columbus Water Works’ operations are conducted under the Board of Water Commissioners. Board Members are appointed by the Columbus Consolidated Government City Council. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings at 1:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at 1421 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31901.

These meetings are open to the public. Members of the Board of Water Commissioners and the Columbus Water Works also conduct public meetings at the Columbus Water Works’ business office. These meetings are open to the public.

Columbus Customers:

- General Information/ Emergencies: (706)649-3400
- Lobby Hours: 8 AM - 5 PM
- Drive-Thru Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM
- Website: www.cwwga.org
- Other Information Sources:
  - www.epa.gov
  - www.awwa.org
  - www.amwa.net
  - www.gaepd.org

Fort Benning Customers:

- Residential: 706-685-3929
- Commercial: 706-545-2232 or 706-545-2518

If you have problems with your service, contact:

Columbus and Fort Benning, GA

Water Quality Report

2013

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