



2017 Water Quality Report

for Columbus and Fort Benning, GA



Dear Customer,

The Columbus Water Works (CWW) is proud to present our 2017 Water Quality Report. This report summarizes information regarding water source, any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information. We take our water quality very seriously and we have never had a drinking water violation. CWW has met all required state and federal standards for drinking water.

The Columbus and Fort Benning region is fortunate to have the Chattahoochee River supply our drinking water. The river provides us with ample water to sustain our needs. Our dependable water source paired with CWW's skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated staff ensures that we provide clean, safe, great tasting water. CWW vigilantly safeguards our water supply and the water is carefully treated before it reaches your tap.

In addition to analyzing the river water quality, we also work to protect the health of the river by monitoring water flows, protecting the watershed (tributaries and creeks) and using our water resources wisely by maximizing efficiency and cleaning and returning over 90% of the water we use back into the river.

Thank you for trusting us to provide you with clean, safe and reliable drinking water! We are honored to support the community's public health, safety, quality of life and economic development. Water is the fuel of life and we help to protect it.

Sincerely,

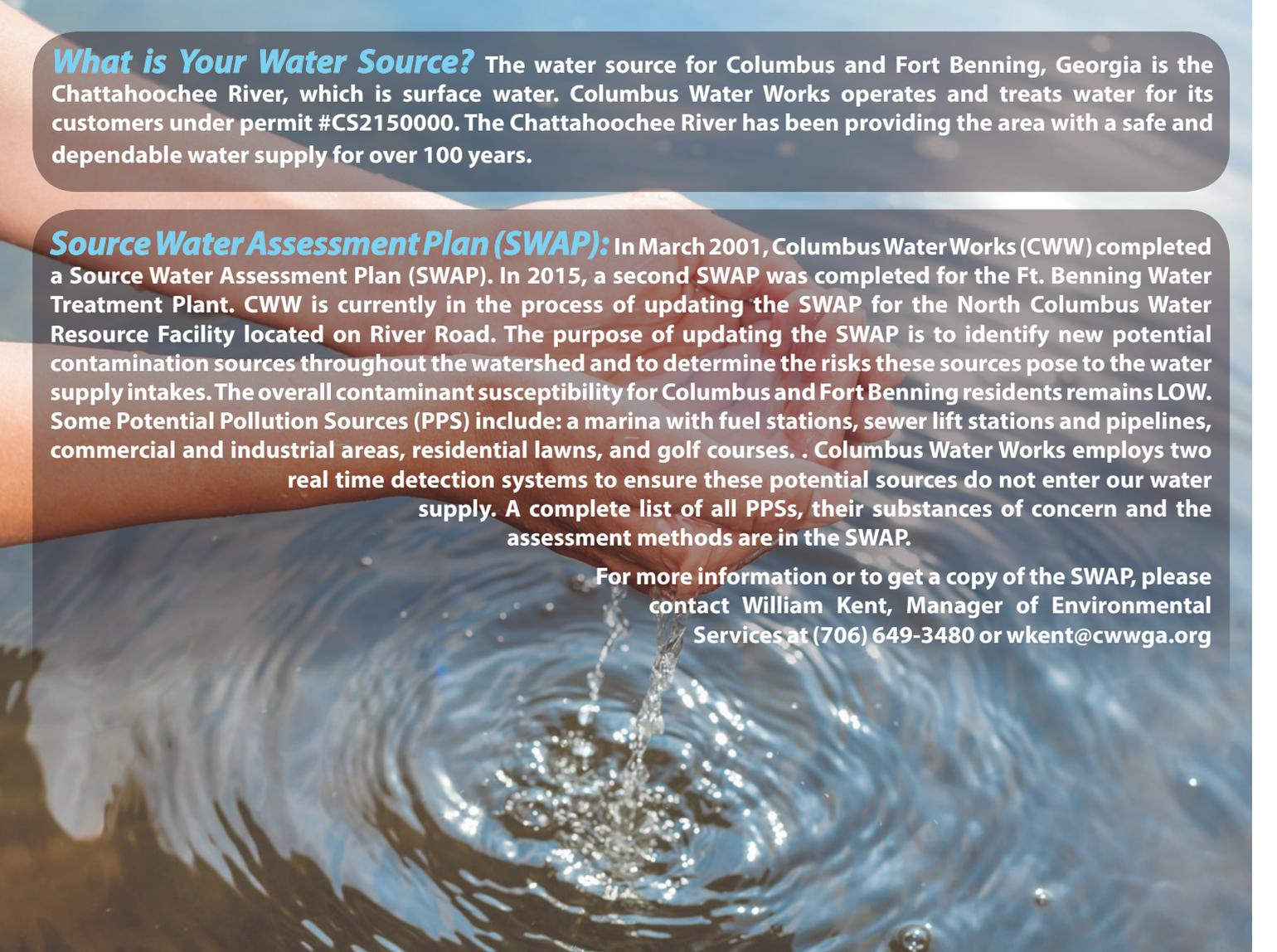


Steve Davis
President of Columbus Water Works

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www.cwwga.org

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clear glass filled with water. The water is being poured or has just been poured, creating a series of concentric ripples that spread outwards across the surface of the water. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue, suggesting a sky or a large body of water. The lighting is bright, highlighting the clarity of the water and the texture of the hand holding the glass.

What is Your Water Source? 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 over 100 years.

Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP): In March 2001, Columbus Water Works (CWW) completed a Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP). In 2015, a second SWAP was completed for the Ft. Benning Water Treatment Plant. CWW is currently in the process of updating the SWAP for the North Columbus Water Resource Facility located on River Road. The purpose of updating the SWAP is to identify new potential contamination sources throughout the watershed and to determine the risks these sources pose to the water supply intakes. The overall contaminant susceptibility for Columbus and Fort Benning residents remains 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. Columbus Water Works employs two real time detection systems to ensure these potential sources do not enter our water supply. A complete list of all PPSs, their substances of concern and the assessment methods are in the SWAP.

For more information or to get a copy of the SWAP, please contact William Kent, Manager of Environmental Services at (706) 649-3480 or wkent@cwvga.org

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/or 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/or 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/or 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, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health as required for public water systems.

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 Services at (706) 649-3480 or visit our website at www.cwwga.org.

Drinking Water Analysis

Regulated Substance Tested and Detected	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Fluoride, ppm (a)	4	4	0.61	0.42 - 0.93	1/17 -12/17	Yes	Water additive promoting strong teeth
Nitrate, ppm	10	10	0.46	0.43 - 0.49	1/17-12/17	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use
Chlorite, ppm	1	0.8	0.1	0.02 - 0.22	1/17 -12/17	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity, Maximum NTU (b)	TT = 1 NTU	N/A	0.04	N/A	1/17-12/17	Yes	Soil runoff
Turbidity, TT % (b)	TT = % of samples ≤ 0.30 NTU	0	100%	N/A	1/17 -12/17	Yes	Soil runoff
Haloacetic Acids (HAA), ppb (c)	60	N/A	29	24.1 - 34.3	1/17 -12/17	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), ppb (c)	80	N/A	66	20.7 - 98	1/17 -12/17	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon, ppm	TT	N/A	1.67	1.4 - 2.0	1/17 -12/17	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria Highest Percent (percent of monthly samples positive for bacteria)	<5%	0	1.0%	0 - 1.0%	1/17 -12/17	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

Regulated Substance Tested and Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Chlorine, ppm	4	4	2.14	1.6 - 2.45	1/17 -12/17	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

Lead and Copper at the Tap (d)	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected	# of Sites Found Above AL	Dates of Sampling (Mo./Yr.)	Does it meet Standards?	Possible Source of Substance
Lead, ppb	15	0	2.7	2* (51 sites Sampled)	1/16 -12/16	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.1	0 (51 sites Sampled)	1/16 -12/16	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Note: Detected amounts are annual averages or running annual averages

* Although 2 sites tested above the action level, the standard of 90 percent of test sites being within the regulated limits was met.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level (AL): The concentration of the contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
MCL	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.
MCLG	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.
MRDL	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.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
NA	Not Applicable
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of the clarity (turbidity) of water.
ppm	parts per million: One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).
ppb	parts per billion: One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).
TT	Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
≤	less than or equal to
≥	greater than or equal to
(a)	Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the State of Georgia optimum of 0.85 parts 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 amount detected represents the highest locational running annual average 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.

Columbus Water Works received 21 water treatment awards in 2017 from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals recognizing our dedication to providing our community with high quality, safe and reliable drinking water. For more information on these awards, please visit: www.cwwga.org.

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).

**Your
water
is
safe!**

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(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.

Columbus Water Works
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Columbus, GA 31902

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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. Please verify the meeting date on our website at: www.cwwga.org

These meetings are open to the public. Meetings are located at:
1421 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, Georgia 31901.

Other Information Sources:

Websites with information
about water quality:

www.epa.gov
www.awwa.org
www.amwa.net
www.gaepd.gov
www.cwwga.org



Columbus Customers:

The Columbus Water Works business office located at 1421 Veterans Parkway, is open weekdays, except for holidays:

Lobby Hours	9 AM - 5 PM
Drive-Thru Hours	8 AM - 5 PM

General Information/ Emergencies (706) 649-3400

Fort Benning Customers:

If you have problems with your service, contact:
Residential: 706-685-3929
Commercial: 706-545-2232 or 706-545-2518