



Columbus City Utilities

2019 Drinking Water Quality Report



Columbus City Utilities (CCU) is pleased to present its Annual Water Quality Report, covering the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act requires that every public water system serving more than 15 service connections prepare a water quality report which provides information on where water comes from and how it compares to current standards. We designed this report to inform you about the quality of water we deliver to you every day.

Quality Service Improves Our Quality of Life

At Columbus City Utilities, our goal is to provide quality services in support of our water utility. Why is that important?

First, we have a responsibility to ensure that quality services are offered each day to the 19,000 customers of Columbus City Utilities.

Second, we take pride in ensuring that our drinking water meets the most stringent standards. We continue to do everything possible to exceed the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act.

Third, we are a partner in reasonable and responsible growth in our community. When CCU provides quality services, these lead to improved neighborhoods and can be the catalyst for future job creation.

Finally, we believe in being accountable to every citizen in Columbus. That is why this Drinking Water Quality Report is being sent your way and is also available for review on our website at columbusutilities.org.

Past, Present, and Future

The history of water in Columbus



Pump House Built

The Pump House went online September 1, 1871.

1871

Columbus population (1870): 3,359



Water Filtration Begins

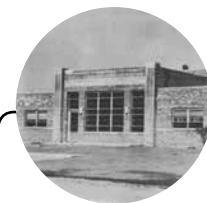
Capable of filtering 4 million gallons of drinking water a day.

1913

Columbus population (1910): 8,813

1918

Cummins Engine Company founded



Lincoln Park Plant Opened

Plant capable of pumping 10 million gallons of water a day.

1950

Columbus population (1950): 18,370

1951

Pump House ceased operations

We are fortunate at CCU. The professionalism of our staff allows us to do more for you each day. These staffers have worked to ensure that all dollars are used effectively, especially without a water rate increase in almost 30 years.

The implementation of Automated Meter Reading, bulk purchases for supplies and service delivery with a 30% reduction of our workforce reinforce that commitment. We take pride in the experience of our employees and we continue to re-engineer our operations to make them even more efficient.

We continue to look ahead to identify system upgrades which will provide even more safety, efficiency, and quality to you, our customers.

Did You Know?

- Columbus City Utilities provides drinking water to over 19,000 customers per day.
- There are nearly 300 miles of water infrastructure lines in Columbus.
- Columbus City Utilities provides 8 to 12 million gallons of drinking water per day.
- Columbus supplied water two months before Indianapolis did in 1871.
- The record for number of gallons pumped in one day was 17.4 million in August 2001.



Utility Service Board Formed

Mayor E.A. Welmer signed the ordinance January 16.



Spear Street Plant Opened

Plant capable of pumping 21 million gallons of water a day.



System Upgrades Underway

Upgrades are currently underway to replace aging water mains.

1961

Columbus population (1960): 20,778

1973

Columbus population (1970): 26,457

1976

Senior Center opens in former Pump House

2019

Columbus population (2017 est.): 47,143

2018 Water Quality Table of Detected Compounds

National Primary Drinking Water Parameters	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Water Plant 1 Lincoln Park Plant	Water Plant 2 Spear Street Plant
Clarity (NTU)			
Turbidity Ground Water	5	0.05	0.1
Microbiological (Percent Positive)			
Coliform	Presence/Absence	Absent	Absent
Inorganic Compounds (mg/L)			
Fluoride (Adjusted)	4	0.82	0.77
Nickel	0.1	<0.003	<0.003
Nitrates and Nitrite (mg/L)			
Nitrate (as N)	10	<0.5	4.8
Lead and Copper (mg/L)			
Lead (Action Level)	0.015	<0.004	0.006
Copper (Action Level)	1.300	0.005	0.009
Organic Compounds (ug/L)			
Total Trihalomethanes	80	17.06	13.23
Radionuclides (pCi/L)			
Radium 228	5	1.30	<1.0
Uranium (mg/L)	0.03	<0.001	0.0017
Gross Alpha	15	<3.0	<3.0
Gross Beta	50	5.30	4.70
Additional Parameters (unit is mg/L unless specified)			
Conductivity (umhos/cm)		750	546
Hardness as CaCO ₃		304	303
Hardness as CaCO ₃ (grains/gallon)		17.8	17.7
Iron	0.3	0.03	0.05
Manganese	0.05	0.03	0.05
pH (pH Unit)	6.5 - 8.5	7.3	7.4
Total Dissolved Solids		496	393
Arsenic	0.010	<0.005	0.006

Reading the Water Quality Table

The table to the left features detected compounds from January 1 - December 31, 2018.

EPA Definitions

- **MCLG:** Maximum contaminant level goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum contaminant level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible, using the best available treatment technology.
- **MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal . The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.
- **Variance and exemption:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Turbidity:** The measure of cloudiness of water.

EPA Abbreviations

- **mg/L:** milligrams per liter (One milligram per liter is the same as one part per million or one dollar out of one million dollars.)
- **ug/L:** micrograms per Liter

Federal Drinking Water Requirements

Columbus City Utilities meets all drinking water quality standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The American Water Works Association standards guide operations and maintenance. We are pleased to report that during the calendar year for 2018 (or before), there were no violations of these standards and all monitoring requirements as set forth by IDEM were met or exceeded. The operators at our water treatment plant are certified by the State of Indiana and they receive continuous training and education.

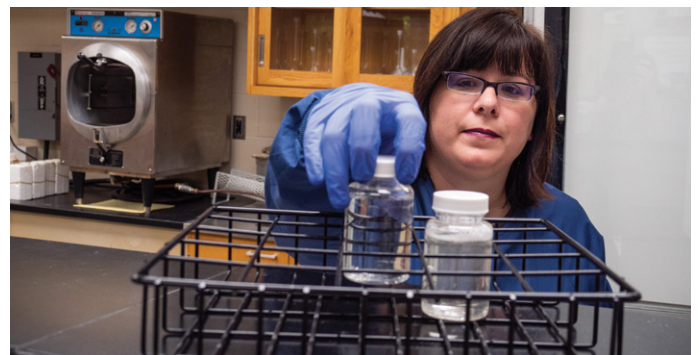
Potential Contaminants

The following is a list of contaminants that may be present in source water. However, none of these have been detected at significant levels in the Columbus system:

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



Our lab in 1914. Photo from *Illustrated Columbus Indiana*, 1915.



Our lab today.

From The Ground To Your Faucet

Where does your water come from?



Water Treatment Plant 1 in Lincoln Park, opened 1950.

Since the early 1950's, Columbus has obtained all of its public drinking water from groundwater resources. This groundwater is obtained from 22 wells and two filtration plants. Water Plant #1 is located in Lincoln Park, which is situated just northwest of Columbus Regional Hospital. This plant is supplied by seven wells that are situated throughout the park property and are capable of supplying a total of 10 million gallons per day to the plant.

Water Plant #2 is located just north of Southside Elementary School on Spear Street near the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds. This plant is supplied by 15 wells from the 4-H Fairground well field, the Marr-Glick well field and the Southern well field. These wells are located throughout the fairground,



Water Treatment Plant 2 on Spear Street, opened 1973.

school property and property east of State Road 11. These wells can supply more than 21 million gallons per day to the plant.

The environment can expose ground water to many contaminants before it is brought to the surface. 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 animal or human activity.

In accordance with 327 IAC 8-4.1-8(3), the Columbus Water Utility has prepared a Wellhead Protection Program to ensure the safety of source waters from the City of Columbus. The Wellhead Protection Area addresses risks to water quality that may result from land uses in the areas near the well field. There are significant industrial areas within the protection areas of each treatment facility.

**Columbus City Utilities
has the capacity to treat
24 million gallons of
drinking water each day.**

How Do We Treat Your Water?

Once the well water is pumped to the plants, it is treated for iron and manganese removal, filtered, disinfected with chlorine, fluoridated to prevent tooth decay, treated with polyphosphate to prevent lead and other metals from entering the water, and pumped to the distribution system. Testing is performed throughout this process and in the distribution system to ensure that the water meets all applicable criteria.

Drinking Water Contaminants

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. The EPA constantly reviews the maximum contaminant levels that we must meet and adjusts them when needed.

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 immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Federal guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* (a contaminant that can be found in certain surface water sources) and other contaminants are available from the EPA.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Columbus City Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components installed prior to the knowledge of health risks associated with lead. If your water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for one to two minutes before using it for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. To learn more about lead in drinking water, visit epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation

Prevent wasted water and save money with these tips:

Inside your home

- Repair faucet and toilet leaks; replace old fixtures with new water-saving devices
- Turn off the tap while shaving and brushing teeth
- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of allowing it to run for each glass

Outdoors

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning to avoid evaporation
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs to reduce evaporation
- Check that sprinklers water the lawn and not the pavement, and do not water on windy or rainy days



More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or visiting epa.gov/safewater.

Columbus City Utilities
P. O. Box 1987
Columbus IN 47202-1987

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Questions About Your Drinking Water?

For further water quality information on Columbus City Utilities or our Water Quality Report, please visit our website at columbusutilities.org.

The Columbus Utility Service Board meets in public session the third Thursday of each month to discuss the business of the Utilities. The meetings are held in the Board Room at the Utilities Service Center located at 1111 McClure Road in Columbus, Indiana at 11:30 am.

Contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding your drinking water.

Columbus City Utilities

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P. O. Box 1987
Columbus IN 47202-1987
812-372-8861
ccu@columbusutilities.org

Aviso Importante

Este reporte contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.
En español: 812-372-8861.



Watch for our crews this summer!

Our team is working hard to serve you, so watch for our trucks and crews, and slow down when you see them.

