

# THE TRICKLE



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## WATER FILTRATION PLANT UPGRADES

Chester Metropolitan District (CMD) is being proactive by putting plans in place to renovate its water treatment plant on the Catawba River. The Robert Hemphill Water Filtration Plant went into operation in 1964. While some improvements have been made over the past 58 years, some of the mechanical systems and structures have not changed.

In 2021, CMD retained the engineering consulting services of Hazen and Sawyer to perform a condition assessment of the existing treatment and mechanical systems at the water plant. In addition, an analysis was performed to determine how to increase daily treatment capacity in the existing footprint of the main portion of the water plant. The study concluded that portions of the existing treatment and mechanical systems as well as some of the concrete structures are nearing the end of their useful lives. We also learned that the water plant could expand water treatment capacity with certain improvements that include sand filter upgrades, increasing pumping capacity at the raw water intake at the river, and increasing pumping capacity of the high service pumps, which pump finished drinking water into the distribution system.

The improvements will be phased. Renovating the existing water plant will be done first to get the existing plant in like-new conditions along with filter upgrades and will comprise Phase 1. Future phases will include expanding pumping capacity as well as construction of additional on-site ground storage, a new administration building and laboratory. Phase 1, which includes renovations may begin in 2023 at an estimated cost of approximately 12 million dollars. CMD will be seeking funding through the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority using American Rescue Plan Act funds. Future phases will occur over the next 5 to 10 years as water demand increases.

Hazen and Sawyer will begin design of the water treatment plant renovations in July 2022.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Annually the employees of the Chester Metropolitan District vote on their choice for the “Outstanding Employee of the Year”. Employees are asked to base their selection on leadership in the workplace, work ethic, attitude, professionalism, and contributions to the overall team effort of the CMD work force. This distinction is presented to employees who display outstanding team contributions, technical knowledge, and dedication to the overall mission of the District.

Please join us in congratulating

**KELLI JOHNSON, BILLY HAYES, AND LISA COOK**

as CMD’s Employees of the Year!

## NEW HIRES

CMD would like to welcome it’s most recent new hires!

JOSEPH GORDON

MARTY ROBERTS

DAVID DUFF

MIKE MCCREE

SCOTT ROOF

MATT GREGORY

ETHAN JOHNSON

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

CMD is always looking for talented, enthusiastic people to join our team. From health and dental coverage to generous vacation and sick leave, our competitive benefits package is among the best. We also offer long-term disability coverage, life insurance, vision insurance and pre-tax spending accounts. CMD participates in the South Carolina Retirement System and the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program.

We support employees’ efforts to advance their career by offering training and professional development opportunities, including tuition assistance.



Check our website at  
[www.chestermetrosc.com](http://www.chestermetrosc.com)  
for current openings.

# STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CMD encourages continuing education for its employees. Please join us in congratulating our staff for their achievements:

## CHAD WEIR

Water Distribution “B” License

## BILLY HAYES

Promoted to Foreman

## DEVEKO KENNEDY

CDL

## SPENCER ALLISON

CDL

## MIKE MCCREE

CDL

## JR GORDON

Water Treatment “D” License

## KELLI JOHNSON

Associate’s Degree

## JESSICA BECK

Water Treatment “B” License

## PHILLIP GIBSON

Water Treatment “C” & “B” Exams

# **LINDEN DRIVE WATER LINE REPLACEMENT**



In our continued efforts to improve service to all customers, CMD has plans to replace the aging water main on Linden Drive in Chester. Constructed in the 1950s, the existing water main is approximately 3,400 feet of 2-inch galvanized pipe. This line serves approximately 38 houses in the neighborhood.

CMD plans to replace the water main, which will increase water quality and reliability for the neighborhood as well as add fire hydrants for increased fire protection.

An engineering firm has been selected and design work will begin in the next 2 months. Construction should begin in the next 6 to 9 months.

## **FEMA GENERATOR PROJECT: IMPROVING SERVICE RESILIENCY**

In 2017, Chester Metropolitan District applied for funding through SC Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Grants Program to install generators at our critical facilities. While the process has been slow and at times challenging, we are pleased to announce that our project was selected for funding and construction of the generators has begun.

CMD has received approximately \$360,000 in federal funding with which to hire Generator Services, who will install generators at our Headquarters building at 155 Wylie Street as well as our two pump stations out in our water system. The addition of these three natural



gas generators will assist in keeping our water distribution system fully functional in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency which may cause our facilities to lose power.

CMD is committed to providing superior water service to our customers. While we cannot guarantee 100% uninterrupted service to all areas, we are working to minimize the impact of emergency situations on Chester County's residents and businesses.

# CUSTOMER SERVICE

## Know Your Numbers!

CMD bills for several different utilities. We know this can be confusing for our customers, so to help you get where you need to be, check out this helpful list of phone numbers:

**All Billing & Customer Service Inquiries (CMD Office): (803) 385-5123**

**City of Chester Garbage Service (Public Works): (803) 581-1405**

**Chester/Richburg Sewer Development (CWR Office): (803) 377-3541**

**Fort Lawn Sewer Maintenance (Town Hall): (803) 872-4724**

**Great Falls Garbage & Sewer Maintenance (Town Hall): (803) 482-2055**

## BACKFLOW PREVENTERS & YOU

### *The Importance of a Cross Connection Control Program*

You've probably never heard of a backflow preventor and if you have, you probably don't know exactly what it's for. A backflow preventor or prevention device keeps water that is possibly contaminated from contacting the water that we use for drinking, cooking, and bathing. This device is one of the most important, but overlooked, safety items needed to keep drinking water safe for human consumption.

If a device protects the public drinking water system from contamination it is considered a containment device. If the device protects the on-site drinking water from contamination, it is considered an isolation device. Containment devices are under the authority of Chester Metropolitan District (CMD) and isolation devices are under the authority of the local building officials. CMD installs and maintains dual check valves on all residential ¾" and 1" services. The property owner is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and annual testing of double check valve assemblies and reduced pressure assemblies between the meter and the property. All isolation devices regardless of type (hose bib, air gap, etc) on the property are the responsibility of the Owner.

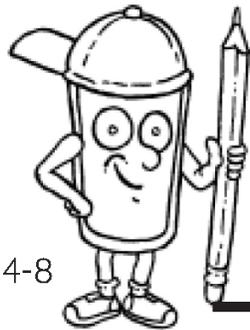
### REGULATION HISTORY

1974: US passed the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public drinking water throughout the country by setting standards for drinking water quality.

1976: SC passed the State Safe Drinking Water Act in 1976 which requires all public water systems to initiate and maintain a Cross Connection Control Program.

1978: Chester Metropolitan District began implementation of a Cross Connection Control Program.

# KIDS' CORNER



4-8

## Matching Game How Much Water?

Draw a line matching the items on the left to the amount of water on the right.

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Taking a shower <input type="checkbox"/>                                     | A. 30 gallons     |
| 2. Watering the lawn <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | B. 180 gallons    |
| 3. Washing the dishes <input type="checkbox"/>                                  | C. 4-7 gallons    |
| 4. Washing clothes <input type="checkbox"/>                                     | D. 1/2 gallon     |
| 5. Flushing the toilet <input type="checkbox"/>                                 | E. 39,090 gallons |
| 6. Brushing teeth <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | F. 62,600 gallons |
| 7. Drinking <input type="checkbox"/>  | G. 15-30 gallons  |
| 8. Needed to produce one ton of steel <input type="checkbox"/>                  | H. 9.3 gallons    |
| 9. Needed to process one can of fruit or vegetables <input type="checkbox"/>    | I. 1 gallon       |
| 10. Needed to manufacture a new car and its four tires <input type="checkbox"/> | J. 9-20 gallons   |



Answers: 1-G, 2-B, 3-J, 4-A, 5-C, 6-I, 7-D, 8-F, 9-H, 10-E



# HAMILTON STREET PROJECT



CMD has been hard at work with system rehabilitation projects over the last few years, and 2022 is no stranger to this new policy. Our Distribution Maintenance crews recently completed another replacement project, this time on Hamilton Street in Chester. One of the older parts of our system, this 2” galvanized main was constructed before 1950 and has been in service ever since!

The 950-foot main currently serves 6 customers, but planned construction in the area warranted an upgrade. Distribution Crews replaced the old, failing line with new PVC, which will increase overall water quality and service to both existing and new customers in the area.

Construction was completed in early May 2022.

**DON'T GET CAUGHT UNAWARE!**

**CMD has several ways to keep you on track with your utility bill payments.**

**Online & Pay-By-Phone Options**

**Automated Notifications**

**Automatic Bank Draft**

**Credit Card Payment Scheduling**

**Email Billing**

**Visit [www.chestermetrosc.com](http://www.chestermetrosc.com) for more information or to sign up for these services!**



# HOW DOES MY BILL WORK?

As we've said many times already, CMD bills for several utilities in Chester County. This is done through long-standing agreements with the City of Chester, Town of Fort Lawn, Town of Great Falls, and CWR. While CMD is not responsible for setting the rates for the different municipalities or handling maintenance issues, our Customer Service Staff will be happy to assist with any questions or concerns our customers may have. If we are unable to provide a suitable answer, we will do our best to find someone who can.

Many of our customers ask about the bill itself and what the charges mean. Some customers have quite a few lines of charges, and it can be confusing. Some of the charges are for water, some for sewer, and others for garbage. Depending on where you live, your bill may have anywhere from one to five line items. So, here's what you need to know to help make sense of the charges on your bill:

- CM WATER BASE: CMD charges a "base rate" for service of \$16.43 for a standard residential customer. This will appear on every water bill.
- CM WATER CONSUMPTION: This is the charge for your usage. CMD charges \$8.23 per thousand gallons used, or \$0.00823 per gallon based on the new calculation.
- CWR SEWER BASE: CWR also charges a "base rate" for service. Theirs is \$20.39 for a standard residential customer, and just like CMD, this charge will appear on every bill.
- CWR SWR CONSUMPTION: This is the charge for your usage. It is based on your water consumption, and is billed at a rate of \$9.14 per thousand gallons used. Again, if you use less than 1,000 gallons in a month, this line may not appear, or will have a \$0.00 charge.
- CHESTER CITY GARBAGE: The City of Chester charges \$21.00 per month for garbage service within the City limits. Any customer on public water inside Chester's incorporated limits is required to have garbage service, unless specifically waived by Chester Public Works.
- GF CITY GARBAGE: The Town of Great Falls charges \$14.50 per month for garbage service within the Town's limits. Any customer on public water inside Great Falls' incorporated limits is required to have garbage service, unless specifically waived by the Town of Great Falls.
- GF SEWER: The Town of Great Falls is responsible for wastewater service and maintenance in the Great Falls area. A copy of their rate schedule can be obtained by contacting Great Falls Town Hall.
- FL SEWER: The Town of Fort Lawn is responsible for wastewater service and maintenance in the Fort Lawn area. A copy of their rate schedule can be obtained by contacting Fort Lawn Town Hall.

As always, rate schedules and other billing information can be found on our website or by visiting our office.

# **IN THE KNOW: IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

## **SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) completed an assessment of our source water in December of 2005 and has reported that our raw water is most susceptible to contamination from abandoned irrigation wells and farm runoff. A follow-up investigation identified two abandoned wells. They have been properly plugged. Farm runoff continues to be a concern. Please contact the Clemson Extension Service at (803) 385-6181 to get a list of area farmers participating in a three-county source water protection program.

Please contact CMD at (803) 385-5123 to arrange to review this document.

### **DON'T MESS WITH METERS!**

CMD wants to remind its customers that meter tampering is against the law and subject to prosecution by law enforcement.

“Meter tampering” is defined as altering, tampering with, or bypassing a meter installed for the purpose of measuring gas, electricity, or water.

In addition to charges in accordance with the SC meter tampering law, any customer whose meter has been tampered with will be responsible for paying all damages and fees associated with the act.

### **Automatic Notifications**

Want to receive a call when your bill is due?

Create your free account at [www.chestermetrosc.com/billpay](http://www.chestermetrosc.com/billpay) and update your notification information.

Your free account will also allow you to manage your CMD account, view usage history, and pay your bill.

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 infection. 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the

**SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE**  
**1-800-426-4791**

# 2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water service we deliver to you every day. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our Water Treatment Plant at (803) 872-4418.

The Chester Metropolitan District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1—December 31, 2021. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2021. This is in part due to the professionalism of our operators. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State Requirements. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels and meets primary drinking water standards.

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 private service lines and home plumbing. CMD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 it for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.html>.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates the constituent is not present.

**Parts per Million (PPM) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000

**Parts per Billion (PPB)** - Equates to 1 penny in 1,000,000,000 pennies.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Action Level (AL)** - The level where action must be taken by treatment or other requirements.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intending to lower a contaminant level.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Removal** - The percent removal must be at least 1 or the system is in violation.

**Highest Quarterly Average (HQL)** - The highest three-month average of a parameter recorded.

**Highest Level Detected (HLD)** - The highest level of a contaminant detected in drinking water.

# 2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT

MCLs are set at very rigid levels. In order to have a ONE IN A MILLION chance of health risks associated with these Contaminants, you have to drink 2 LITERS of water EVERY DAY for a LIFETIME.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Chester Metropolitan, 2020</b>						
Fluoride	N	0.560	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.67	PPM	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	7.40	PPM	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines	N	RAA 1.01 Range 0.38-1.72	PPM	MRDL= 4	MRDL= 4	Water additives used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	N	LRAA 22 Range 0 - 39.5	PPB	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	LRAA 34.2 Range 17.9-57.8	PPB	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon	N	RAA 1.35 Range 1.01-1.71 Avg Rem 47.1%	PPM	35% Removal Required	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	N	HLD 0.28 Average 0.04	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil Runoff
Surfactants (MBAS)	N	ND	PPB	N/A	SMCL - 500	Household detergents, industrial discharges
1,4 Dioxane	N	ND	PPB	N/A	UR	Used to stabilize chlorinated solvents in an accidental spill
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Highest Number of Positive	Total Positive E.coli Samples	Total MCL	MCL Goal	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	1	0	1 Positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment
<b>LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS, 2019</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	90th Percentile	Unit Measurement	Action Level	Sites over Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper, Free	N	0.135	PPM	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	5.0	PPB	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Chester Metropolitan District  
P.O. Box 550  
Chester, SC 29706

# WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Chester Metropolitan District holds its regular board meetings the Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The meetings are open to the public. The remaining meeting dates for 2022 are:

July 12, 2022  
August 9, 2022  
September 13, 2022  
October 11, 2022  
November 8, 2022  
December 13, 2022

If you would like to address our Commission, please call the office at (803) 385-5123 to secure your place on the agenda. Members of the public will be given three (3) minutes to speak.

