

THE TRICKLE

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WATER FILTRATION PLANT RENOVATION

Chester Metropolitan District's (CMD) 10-year and Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan outlines improvements to our water system to keep pace with future growth in Chester County. The Phase I improvements to the water treatment plant will not increase treatment capacity of the facility but will refurbish the plant's structures and mechanical systems to be ready for treatment capacity expansions in future phases.

Hazen and Sawyer, a civil engineering firm located in Columbia, is well under-way designing the Phase I water plant improvements. Improvements include structural concrete repair, reconstructing the electrical system, upgrading the filters and filter piping, upgrading the SCADA system (computerized treatment control system), up-sizing the raw water pump motors and installing variable frequency drives, and replacing the raw water header piping in the pump house at the Catawba River. The design phase is scheduled to be completed in December 2023 and the project will be bid in February 2024. The probable cost of improvements is \$14 million dollars.

CMD was awarded a \$10 million dollar grant in April 2023 from the South Carolina Infrastructure Improvement Program (SCIIP), which was funded by the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds will be used to pay for the improvements to the water treatment plant. In addition, CMD has applied for a \$5.5 million dollar Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan (DWSRF) from SCDHEC to pay for the remainder of the project costs. We expect to receive loan approval in July/August 2023.

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

**KELVIN MINTER, KAELAH MCQUEEN,
ALEX ODOM, AND JESSICA BECK!**

as CMD’s Employees of the Year!

NEW HIRES

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

MARIO CRANK

MONTY GREEN

JUSTIN DAVIS

BEN TIMMS

TRAVIS PRICE

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
for current openings.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

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

JR GORDON

Water Treatment "C" License

Promoted to Operator I

PHILLIP GIBSON

Promoted to Operator

ETHAN JOHNSON

CDL

MATT GREGORY

CDL

MARIO CRANK

CDL

TIFFANY BOYD

Accounting Clerk Certificate

Associates Degree in Accounting

KELLI JOHNSON

Backflow Program Administrator

JOSEPH FERRELL

Promoted to Residuals Manager

JB HINSON

Backflow Program Administrator

Water Treatment "E" License

Water Treatment "D" License

Water Treatment "C" License

KAELAH McQUEEN

Associates Degree in Accounting

MIKE MCCREE

Promoted to Field Rep

KYLE ROBINSON

Water Treatment "B" License

Promoted to Operator II

CLAY SHANNON

CompTIA A+

CompTIA Network+

LISA KIMBRELL

Certified Customer Service Professional
Certificate

WHAT ABOUT THE PFAS?

WHAT ARE PFAS?

You may have heard talk in the news of things called PFAs. Sometimes they're referred to as PFOs or PFOAs. But what are those, exactly? And how do they affect CMD's customers?

PFAs, or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are commonly known as "Forever Chemicals." They are long-lasting, manufactured substances that break down very slowly over time, and have been in use in both industry and consumer products since the 1940s. They are found in many common products such as firefighting foam, chrome plating, electronics, textile and paper manufacturing, water and stain repellents, upholstery, nonstick cookware, varnishes and sealants, fast food wrappers, pizza boxes, shampoo, cosmetics, sunscreen, and more.

Because of they break down slowly, they tend to build up over time. That means PFAs are found in everything in our environment, too – surface water, ground water, air, soil, fish, animals, and even people. PFAs exist in low levels in the blood of people and animals all over the world.

Current scientific studies suggest that exposure to certain PFAs at high levels may have adverse health effects. This research is ongoing, which will help us to better understand the effects of PFAs on our health and how they affect us over time.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR CMD'S CUSTOMERS

There are thousands of PFAs, which makes them challenging to study. However, the two most studied are Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), both of which have been used in the United States until very recently.

In August 2020, SCDHEC tested our treated water for these two PFAs chemicals. The results were 2.2 parts per trillion for PFOA and 2.5 parts per trillion for PFOS. At the time of testing, the US EPA had set the maximum contaminant levels (MCL, or safe consumption limit) for PFOA and PFOS at 70 parts per trillion. Earlier this spring, US EPA proposed a revised MCL for PFOA and PFOS at 4 parts per trillion. This proposed MCL is currently under review.

As you can see, our levels are well below the both the existing published MCLs for PFOA and PFOS and the newly-proposed MCL. Our water quality is within the limits set forth by the US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act. CMD will continue to monitor the research into PFAS chemicals and other emerging contaminants and make changes to our treatment processes to provide safe drinking water to our customers.

For more information, visit <https://epa.gov/pfas>.

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 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

Simple Steps to **SAVE WATER** Outdoors & In



TEST WITH TRACKS

Water your lawn and landscape only when it is actually needed, such as when footprints are left when you walk across the grass.

AVOID BUZZ CUTS

Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your turf species or the highest setting on your lawn mower. Cut no more than one-third of the grass length at one time to encourage grass roots to grow deeper.



SPRINKLE WITH CARE

Apply moderate amounts of water to create a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn. For most Florida soils, applying no more than three-quarters of an inch of water per application is enough to revitalize the grass. Use spray heads designed for planting beds. Position the sprinkler so that you water only the lawn and shrubs, not paved areas.



OUTDOORS



PLANT FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LAWNS

Plant native or drought-tolerant vegetation that thrives in the native soil and local weather conditions. Go native, and resist the urge to water it and just let it go brown during the dry season. It will come back, as nature intended, when the rains come.



FERTILIZE RESPONSIBLY

Excessive nutrients flowing into our waterways do not only come from big industry or agriculture. The use of fertilizer and pesticides on our yards results in pollutants contaminating the waterways in stormwater runoff when it rains. Residents are encouraged not to use fertilizers or pesticides during the warmer months and to use them in the correct amounts during other times of the year.

INDOORS



NOZZLE THE NOSE OF YOUR HOSE

Equip hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles for car washing, hand watering, etc.



COLOR YOUR WATER

Detect a leaking toilet by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If the tank is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. Replace the bad parts or consider upgrading to water-efficient toilets. Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other such waste in a trash can rather than in the toilet.

CHECK YOUR WATER METER

Check for leaking pipes by reading your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the readings are different, you have a leak.



TURN IT OFF

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.



LOAD IT UP

Set clothes washing machines that have variable settings for water volume at the minimum amount required per load. If load size cannot be set, operate the washer with full loads only.



TIME YOUR SHOWERS

By timing your showers to keep them under five minutes and installing low-flow shower heads, you can save water. The older the shower head, the more water it uses. New low-flow shower heads use only 2 gallons of water per minute or less. Older fixtures use as much as 5 gallons per minute.

LET US KEEP IN TOUCH!



Did you know that CMD has a phone alert system? It allows us to easily send out important communications to our customers. We use the system to deliver information such as late notices, service interruptions, and boil water advisories.

Unfortunately, the system is only as good as our contact information. Approximately 60% of our established accounts do not have accurate telephone numbers. There are several ways to remedy this, though!

The first option is to set up a utility management account for full control! Visit our free account management portal at www.chestermetrosc.com/billpay to set up or access your account today. You will have the ability to easily sign up for notifications and update your contact information as needed.

No internet? No worries! Simply call or visit our office and ask our Customer Service Representatives to update your telephone number in the system.

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 for more information or to sign up for these services!



EPA'S REVISED LEAD & COPPER RULE

The original Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was published in 1991, three decades ago. In December 2021, US EPA published revisions to the existing Lead and Copper Rule, Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR). The LCRR requires water utilities to inventory all customer's water service lines, system-wide, and determine if the service line material is lead. All water utilities are mandated to have completed their lead service line (LSL) inventory and begin removing and replacing LSL's by October 16, 2024. The LSL inventory will be the first step in setting appropriate lead and copper sampling points and allocating money for LSL replacement projects.

LSLs were banned by Congress in 1986, as was lead solder for copper pipes and fittings. Any building constructed after 1986 is assumed by EPA to be a non-lead service and is designated as such in the service line inventory.

Chester Metropolitan District (CMD) samples for Lead and Copper at 30 residential or commercial locations within the District's service area every three years. Rarely does CMD have a result > 15 parts per billion (ppb) at a single location, and if it does, it is generally an error in sample collection. For the most part, detection of low lead amounts in homes originates from old-galvanized pipes, lead pipes in homes, old water heaters, heat exchangers, radiators, and old faucets and plumbing fixtures; not the public water system. CMD as part of the water treatment process, adds a corrosion inhibitor chemical that coats water mains and distribution pipes with a phosphate material to prevent corrosion and the water from absorbing lead and copper. However, if water stands over 6 hours in customer's old galvanized/copper piping and plumbing fixtures, some low-level lead and copper detection may occur. If lead and copper samples exceed 15 ppb, the customer is notified immediately of the test results.

A significant revision to the original LCR included in the LCRR is that Lead and Copper samples are required to be taken at elementary schools and daycare facilities. All elementary schools and daycares will be included in the LSL inventory and 20 percent of will be sampled for lead each year for 5 years. The sampling results will be shared with the elementary schools and daycares. Middle Schools and High Schools will be sampled by request only.

Chester Metropolitan District, as standard practice, removes lead service lines when we encounter them during leak repairs and replace them with polyethylene tubing. CMD rarely encounters lead service lines on the utility's side during the course of system maintenance.

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 or text when your bill is due?

Create your free account at 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

2022 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, 2022. As you can see by the table, our system had no violations in 2022. 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 \$1,000,000 pennies

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 contaminant below which there is no known or expected health risk.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

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.

2022 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 |
| Chester Metropolitan, 2021 | | | | | | |
| Fluoride | N | 0.630 | PPM | 4 | 4 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | N | 0.61 | PPM | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium | N | 10.00 | PPM | N/A | N/A | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Chloramines | N | RAA 1.16 Range 0.54-2.04 | PPM | MRDL= 4 | MRDL= 4 | Water additives used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) | N | LRAA 25 Range 21-29 | PPB | 0 | 60 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) | N | LRAA 45 Range 37-54 | PPB | 0 | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Organic Carbon | N | RAA 1.26 Range 1.00-1.57 Avg Rem 46.1% | PPM | 35% Removal Required | TT | Naturally present in the environment |
| Turbidity | N | HLD 0.15 Average 0.04 | NTU | N/A | TT | Soil Runoff |
| 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 |
| LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS, 2022 | | | | | | |
| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | 90th Percentile | Unit Measurement | Action Level | Sites over Action Level | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Copper, Free | N | 0.105 | PPM | 1.3 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead | N | 0.0 | PPB | 15 | 1 | 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 Third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The meetings are open to the public. The remaining meeting dates for 2023 are:

July 18, 2023
August 15, 2023
September 19, 2023
October 17, 2023
November 21, 2023
December 19, 2023

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.

