

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2009

**City of Columbus Drinking Water Quality
Surpasses State and Federal Minimum Standards
*Annual Report Released to Water Customers***

(Columbus) – The City of Columbus’ annual drinking water report shows that the water pumped to more than one million customers again meets or surpasses all minimum requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and all other state and federal health standards. The 2008 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report is currently being mailed to all water customers who are served by the Columbus Department of Public Utilities. The report provides details about the city's drinking water quality from its three treatment plants, the treatment process and source water information.

“We are proud that our drinking water passes all federal and state standards, but we must continue our efforts on maintaining the quality of our drinking water and improving our local waterways,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “We can all help protect our water supplies by disposing of household hazardous waste properly, using lawn chemicals responsibly and by conserving water.”

The report includes a comparison chart that provides ideas on how customers can conserve water including installation of low-flow water fixtures; using shorter wash cycles for laundry and dishes and running only full loads. More conservation tips are available on the department's Web site at www.utilities.columbus.gov.

“This report shows the ongoing investment the City of Columbus is making to ensure a dependable supply of clean drinking water for our customers,” said City Council Public Utilities Committee Chairperson Eileen Paley. “The information contained in the report also provides ideas on how each of us can help protect our natural resources and save on our water bills.”

Each year, Columbus conducts thousands of tests on its drinking water, going beyond the minimum water testing standards. In 2008, the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory staff completed nearly 45,000 tests related to 29 different organic, inorganic and microbiological water quality parameters.

The Department of Public Utilities publishes the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report annually. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that all water utilities provide such information on source water and treated water quality to their customers. Residents can request a copy of the report by calling 311, 645-3111 or it can viewed on the department's Web site at: <http://utilities.columbus.gov/Water/PDFs/CCR2008.pdf>.

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