

Update on Cochran Water System



This is an update on the condition of the Cochran water system and water quality. The City provides potable water to Cochran residences and businesses. The City works to assure that the system provides reliable water service and water pressure for the citizens of Cochran. The City has been monitoring water quality and working with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to protect and improve water quality throughout the community. The City works with Georgia EPD to implement an approved action plan that addresses water quality in our system:

- The City Public Works Department and Fire Department are implementing a plan for required hydrant flushing and pressure/flow-testing that must be conducted by both departments. By coordinating the hydrant flushing and flow-testing, the City is working to reduce the incidence of discolored water in the system. The City has over 300 fire hydrants that must be regularly flushed, and data must be collected on hydrant pressure and flow-rates to fulfill Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) standards. The ISO standards impact fire insurance rates in the City. Additionally, the City conducts routine flushing of the water system to minimize normally occurring sediments that accumulate over time within the distribution system. The Georgia Rural Water Association is providing guidance to minimize the chances of discolored water in the water system.
- The Dykes Street water well is back on-line and is the primary water supply for the north and southwest portions of town. The Dykes Street well was videoed, tested, and cleaned to make sure that it is pumping clean water into the system. No issues related to this well and water quality were observed during the inspection process. The Ash Street well is temporarily off-line due to a new motor being installed. The Ash Street well casing is being reviewed and adjusted and the well is expected to be back-on-line soon. Presently, the City's wells that are in-service are the W. Dykes Street Well, Vernon Road Well, and the Ann Street well. These wells are providing quality water and sufficient pressure within the water system.
- The City is evaluating the raw water samples that were drawn from all four of the City's water wells to determine any potential source for elevated levels of constituents that can contribute to discolored water. The raw water samples include a panel of inorganic components that will allow for a better understanding of our raw water composition.
- **The City is coordinating the chemical treatment systems at each well to maximize efficiency.**

- The City is coordinating the filtration and backwash schedules ~~and chemical additions~~ that are components of the treatment systems at ~~three each~~ of the four City water wells (~~West Dykes~~, Ash Street, Ann Street, and Vernon Rd.) to maximize efficiency. **(Note: The well construction at West Dykes is a limestone well that does not require filtration)**
- Regular “backwashing” of the filtration systems located at three of the City’s water wells helps ensure that filters are clean, and that quality water is sent through the water lines. The Ga. Rural Water Association reviews and provides guidance on the City’s backwashing program. We implement their suggestions to make sure that our backwashing practices lead to a quality water supply for customers.

The City will continue to report on its relations with Ga. EPD and the Georgia Rural Water Association to keep the public informed on local water quality and monitoring.

The City recently repaired a six (6”) inch-wide water line under East Dykes Street in front of Captain D’s. There is an older cast iron pipe in the road that was leaking. The City had a delay in the correct component to be ordered and installed to seal the pipe. This has been done, and the leak is repaired. The City appreciates the patience of motorists who tolerated the metal cover on the road while the leak was under repair.

Direct notification to the City of any issues results in the quickest resolutions. If you have a problem with your water, please call City Hall at (478) 934-6346 so that a work order can be completed and the City water division crew can address your problem quickly and efficiently. You are also encouraged to fill out a customer service request at info@cityofcochran.com. If you have a water emergency after regular work hours, please call “911” so that an on-call technician can visit your house to help address your problem.

The City appreciates and welcomes input from citizens regarding the City of Cochran water system.

Thank you.

Richard Newbern
City Manager