Columbus Water Supply Historical Timeline

1871  First water supply system, consisting of well and pump station, constructed at the Scioto and Olentangy rivers confluence

1904  Construction of Griggs Reservoir/dam begins (370 acres, 1.4 billion gallons)

1908  Scioto River Purification Plant and Pump Station construction completed, Griggs Reservoir dedication

1925  O’Shaughnessy Reservoir/dam completed (943 acres, 4.8 billion gallons)

1945  White Sulfur Quarry used as emergency water supply (33 acres, 445 million gallons), city purchased quarry in 1965

1950  Nelson Road Water Plant comes online as an intermittent water plant for summer peak flows, plant taken offline in 1961 after Big Walnut Water Treatment Plant comes online

1925  Hoover Reservoir built on Big Walnut Creek (3,024 acres, 20.8 billion gallons)

1956  Big Walnut Water Treatment Plant on Morse Road completed (later renamed the Hap Cremean Water Plant in 1988)

1971  City joins cooperative agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers to build Alum Creek Reservoir as supplemental water supply for Hoover Reservoir (3,387 acres, 44 billion gallons)

1975  A new Dublin Road Water Plant replaces the Scioto River Purification Plant

1979  A new wellfield water plant to serve southern Franklin County begins construction, the Parsons Avenue Water Plant, which goes into service in 1984

1988  Severe drought depletes city’s reservoirs, water use restrictions imposed on customers

1990  Water Beyond 2000 Study begins to develop a plan to ensure an adequate, dependable and high quality water supply through 2020

1993  Land purchases in northwestern Delaware County begins, city purchases over 2,000 acres

1998  Water Beyond 2000 Study completed, recommended expansion of south wellfield in 2003 and construction of three upground reservoirs in northern Delaware County to begin in 2005

2001  Water Beyond 2000 Study updated using 2000 census data, recommended delaying original plan by three years

2004  Preliminary design/environmental investigations begin for new upground reservoirs known as R1, R2 and R3

2006  Detailed design started on R2 which was chosen to be constructed first because it is the largest (842 acres, 9.3 billion gallons)

2008  Hartman agreement signed to manage the south well field over the next 40 years and resulting in a new water supply reservoir in the distant future

2009  Trees removed from R2 to facilitate construction; project put on hold due to economic downturn and department focus on wet weather management/sewer plan

2011  Reservoir, pump station and 72” water line construction begins; two new wells were added to south well field, increasing well field safe yield by 7 million gallons per day

2013  Reservoir, pump station and water line construction is complete; water from the Scioto River is first pumped into the upground reservoir

2014  Upground reservoir reaches normal pool elevation of 955’ and initial filling completed on May 5; R2 dedicated as John R. Doutt Upground Reservoir on September 30