Calhoun Utilities
City of Calhoun, Georgia

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2019

Meeting the Challenge

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water customers.

Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. We value and respect any concerns you may have.

— James F. Palmer, Mayor

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Coosawattee River (surface water) is the primary source for your potable (consumable) water. The Oostanaula River (surface water) may be used as an emergency water supply. The Mauldin Road Treatment Plant produces an average of 5.68 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water, in accordance with strict Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) guidelines for the removal of contaminants. The Brittany Drive Treatment Plant produces an average of 4.45 MGD of drinking water from excellent ground water and natural spring sources. The treatment plants have similar treatment processes. The two facilities have a combined treatment capability of 30.8 MGD.

Mauldin Road Water Treatment Plant

Protecting Our Water Resources

A Source Water Assessment was completed for the Coosawattee River in January 2003. In 2012 the Watershed Assessment for the Coosa River Basin was completed, with a Watershed Protection Plan currently under implementation. The assessments identify possible sources of contaminants and the Watershed Protection Plan is designed to help reduce the potential for contamination of our water sources. For more information regarding these reports, please contact the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, PO Box 1793, Rome, GA 30162-1793.

Brittany Drive Water Treatment Plant

Sampling Results System ID N0. GA1290000

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sam-

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MCRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	1.65	0.73 - 1.65	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	4.00	4	1.15	0.70 - 1.15	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2019	T T	NA	1.60	0.60 - 1.60	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity * (NTU)	2019	T T	NA	0.960	0.010 - 0.960	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limits)	2019	T T	NA	100.000	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90TH % TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppb)	2018	1300.00	1300	550.00	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2018	15.00	0	4.3000	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
OTHER REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids [HAA](ppb)	2019	60.00	NA	45.31	33.827 - 45.312	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80.00	0	52.28	39.485 - 52.275	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate/Nitrite (ppm)	2019	10.00	0	2.10	0.44 - 2.10	No	Agriculutral Operations, urban runoff
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	SMCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Iron (ppm)	2019	300.00	NA	0.13	0.00 - 0.13	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb) (ppm)	2019	50.00	NA	0.04	0.000 - 0.040	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2019	6.5-8.5	NA	8.00	6.50 - 8.00	No	Naturally occurring
Zinc (ppm)	2019	5.00	NA	0.70	0.00 - 0.70	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

* Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCGLs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
NA: Not applicable.
NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. (Immunocomprimised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryto-sporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at US EPA's web site at http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

Potential Contaminants That Could Be in Water

To insure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in drinking water provided by public water systems. Although less rigorous, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection in order to protect public health. The presence of these contaminants does not mean that the water poses a health risk. Both tap water and bottled water rely on many of the same sources, such as rivers, lakes, steams, ponds, reservoirs, wells and springs. As water moves along the surface of the earth or flows below ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material, in addition to substances that are a result of animal, human and agricultural activities. Substances that may be present in the source water may include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewerage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock, or wildlife;
Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals which may occur naturally or salts and metals from storm runoff, industrial or domestic waste discharges, oil and natural gas production, mining, and farming;
Pesticides and Herbicides, these may come from agricultural operations, urban storm runoff, and residential use;
Organic Chemical Contaminants, which include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and oil and gas production, gas stations, parking lots, urban storm runoff, and septic systems;
Radioactive Contaminants, these may be naturally occurring or may be a result of oil and gas production, and mining.

Lead and Copper

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for young children and pregnant women. Lead in drinking water is primarily caused by lead leaching from older household piping, service lines and fixtures. We are responsible for providing safe drinking water but we cannot control the materials that were once used inside homes or from the water meter to the home. When water sits for hours inside these pipes and fixtures, lead exposure may occur. By opening your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking, any contaminated water will escape . If you have concerns about lead in your water, you may wish to have the water tested. Information regarding lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to avoid or minimize exposure is available from the Safe drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

If your house has copper plumbing, copper can dissolve in the water in your pipes when the water sits unused in your pipes overnight. This may cause green stains in your sinks or other fixtures. To avoid this, keep your water heater set to a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit and open your tap for a minute or so before using water for drinking or cooking. These two things will help keep copper levels reduced.

Water Facts

The average faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute. You can save up to four gallons of water every morning by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
More than 25% of bottled water comes from a municipal water supply, the same place that tap water comes from.
Taking a bath requires up to 70 gallons of water. A five-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
A running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day.
If you drink your daily recommended 8 glasses of water per day from the tap, it will cost you about 50 cents per year. If you choose to drink it from water bottles, it can cost you up to $1,400 dollars.

Community Participation

The City of Calhoun City Council convenes on the second and fourth Monday of each month. You are invited to come and listen or if you like you may register to speak regarding any concerns you may have about our drinking water. Please register by noon on Friday in order to be placed on the agenda as a speaker. You may call Paul Worley, City Administrator, at (706) 602-5510.

Contact Information

For more information about this report, or for any concerns related to your drinking water, please call Kyle Ellis, Water & Wastewater Director, at (706) 602-6078; Jeremy King, Mauldin Road Water Treatment Manager at (706) 602-6063; or Ben Hall, Brittany Drive Water Treatment Manager, at (706) 602-5921.

Water Conservation

Save five gallons per flush by replacing a toilet made before 1992 with a newer ultra-low-flush model.
Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks!
Fix any leaky faucets. One drop per second can add up to 165 gallons a month!
Water your lawn and garden in the morning or after dark. You'll use 30 percent less water than you would if you watered in the middle of the day when evaporation is higher. Do not water your lawn when it's windy.