

Our Clean Water Commitment

The City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (DWM) is pleased to provide its 2019 Water Quality Report (WQR). Compiled and presented by the DWM Office of Watershed Protection, this WQR supplies information about Atlanta's drinking water system and shows that the City's drinking water continues to meet or exceed standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The City conducts more than 50,000 tests annually to screen for more than 150 potential contaminants in its drinking water. The tables shown in this report list regulated substances that were detected, even if the amount was below the highest level allowed by EPA and federal regulations.

Throughout 2019, DWM continued its efforts to rehabilitate the City's drinking water infrastructure in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Through a five-year \$1 billion Capital Improvement Program, DWM is moving forward with its Leak Detection Program and related Water Distribution System Improvement projects. These projects will reduce the amount of water lost to leaks, address water pressure issues and reduce discoloration in areas with older and/or leaking mains.

For more information about these or other current City of Atlanta water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure enhancements, visit www.atlantawatershed.org.



Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta Water System and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) have completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of surface water pollution to your drinking water supply. The results of this assessment can be found at http://www.atlantaregional.com/File%20Library/Environment/SWAP_ATLFUL_RESULTS.PDF or you can request information by mail from the ARC.



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Atlanta Regional Commission
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The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 infections. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



The Source of Atlanta's Water

Each day, the Atlanta water system provides approximately 98 million gallons of treated drinking water for more than 1.2 million residents in the metropolitan area. The Chattahoochee River serves as our only local surface water supply.

The Chattahoochee Water Treatment Plant processes river water directly while the Hemphill Water Treatment Plant processes water from a reservoir that is filled from the river. Together the plants produce 75 percent of Atlanta's drinking water. The rest is supplied by the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant that also processes water from the Chattahoochee River. Jointly owned by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County, it produces water for the northeast portion of our drinking water distribution system.

Community Relations

DWM's Office of Communications & Community Relations educates and informs residents about water quality issues and infrastructure projects that may affect them. The office also includes a public education component designed to encourage and educate community groups, residents, school children and seniors about water conservation and water resource issues. For information about educational opportunities for your organization or community, please contact Lisa Baker at 404-546-3215.



Important Information

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, have someone explain it to you.

Información importante

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si no lo entiende, pídale a alguien que se lo explique.

Contact Information:

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Office of Watershed Protection • Laboratory Division
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CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF
**watershed
management**



2019

City of Atlanta WATER QUALITY REPORT

WSID# GA1210001

Definitions and Key

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

About Lead and Copper

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 service lines and home plumbing. The City of Atlanta has no lead service lines, but does have some lead joints. The Department of Watershed Management 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 stagnant for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



Key: for all units used in table

AL	Action Level
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not detected at testing limit
NR	Not regulated
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.)
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (one part per million is equivalent to one penny in 10 thousand dollars.)
TT	Treatment Technique
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average
TOC	Total Organic Carbon

Regulated – Drinking Water

2019	Parameters (units)	MCL	Result	Range of Detections	Represents	Violation	Typical Source	
	SAMPLED AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS***							
	Flouride (ppm)	4	0.74	0.61 - 0.81	Highest Monthly Average	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth	
	Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	10	0.62	0.43 - 0.73	Yearly Average	No	Runoff from fertilizer use	
	Total Organic Carbon (ratio)	Treatment Technique	1.29*	1.0 - 1.29	Highest Monthly Ratio	No	Naturally present in the environment	
	Turbidity (NTU)	TT =1 NTU	0.09	0.02 - 0.48	Highest Monthly Average	No	Soil runoff	
	Turbidity (% of samples <0.3 NTU)	95	100	NA	Lowest Monthly Percentage	No	Soil runoff	
	SAMPLED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM							
	Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	1.46	0.95 - 1.70	Highest Monthly Average	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
	Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	69	29 - 69	Highest Quarterly LRAA	Yes**	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
Total Coliform (% of samples)	5.0	1.4	0.0 - 1.4	Highest Monthly Percentage	No	Naturally present in the environment		
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	69	29 - 69	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination		

*TOC is a calculated removal ratio.

**The violation was in April of 2019. The violation affected 1,050 residences along Mount Vernon Hwy. Subsequent testing has shown that the Mount Vernon Hwy. location is back in compliance.

*** This information includes data from Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant.

2019	Parameters (units)	MCL	Result	Range of Detections	Represents	Violation	Typical Source	
	SAMPLED AT CONSUMER TAPS							
	Copper (ppm)*	AL= 1.3	0.152*	1 of 66	90th Percentile	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	
Lead (ppb)*	AL= 15	6.1*	6 of 66	90th Percentile	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems		

*Triennial Monitoring

Unregulated – River Water**

2019	Parameters (units)	MCL	Result	Range of Detections	Represents	Violation	Typical Source	
	SAMPLED AT THE SOURCE WATER							
	Bromide (ppb)	Not regulated	21.0	20.7 - 21.0	Highest Detected	No	Naturally present in the environment	

Unregulated – Drinking Water**

2019	Parameters (units)	MCL	Result	Range of Detections	Represents	Violation	Typical Source	
	SAMPLED AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS							
	Quinoline (ppb)	Not Regulated	0.046	68 - 280	Highest Detected	No	Used as a pharmaceutical (anti-malarial) and flavoring agent; produced as a chemical intermediate; component of coal	
	Manganese (ppb)	50.0*	1.96	1.96	Highest Detected	No	Naturally-occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries and fireworks; drinking water and wastewater treatment chemical; essential nutrient	

*Secondary MCL

**Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.