City of Hoschton, Georgia
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2009

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Hoschton is pleased to report that during 2009 our community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). **All Hoschton water customers were supplied by water obtained from Hoschton's Groundwater Well 1 and/or purchased from the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority (JCWSA).** Hoschton water customers can also receive a copy of the JCWSA Water Quality Report. The City of Hoschton's Well 1 was decommissioned in December of 2009, and the City now purchases all water from the JCWSA.

Hoschton's well water was sampled and analyzed by the Georgia EPD Laboratory during 2009 for 13 other regulated and unregulated contaminates, including metals and Nitrate/Nitrite. Fifty-nine synthetic organic pesticides, herbicides, and volatile organic compounds were analyzed in 2007 on a 3 year cycle. No such contaminants were found to be present in the water above detection limits or outside of acceptable ranges. The Hoschton Water Department analyzes the water daily for chlorine residual, pH, and fluoride content. In addition, Hoschton contracts with the Georgia EPD Water Laboratory for periodic testing of other quality parameters each year.

The following table summarizes monitoring and testing results for regulated substances.

DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS TABLE

Substance Detected	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Does it meet Standards?	Probable Source
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0 2.0 (SMCL)	**0.73 (a)**	**Yes**	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	0	15 (AL)	**2.5 (b)**	**Yes**	Corrosion of plumbing systems
Copper	ppb	1300	1300 (AL) 1000(SMCL)	**977 (c)**	**Yes**	Corrosion of plumbing systems
Nitrate/Nitrite	ppm	10	10	**0.32**	**Yes**	Runoff from fertilizer use
Turbidity	NTU	N/A	0.3 (AL) 1.0	**N/A**	**N/A**	Soil runoff into surface waters
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	**0.74 (d)**	**Yes**	Drinking water disinfectant
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	0	80	**39.8**	**Yes**	By-products of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 (Total Haloacetic Acids)	ppb	0	60	**0**	**Yes**	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria	--	0	No more than one sample positive	**(e)**	**No (e)**	Bacteria naturally present in the environment: used as indicator for potentially harmful bacteria

(a) Fluoride is added at Well 1 to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million (ppm). During 2009 daily samples of treated water analyzed by the Hoschton lab reported fluoride ranging from 0.78 to 0.89 ppm and averaged 0.82 ppm.

(b) 90^{th} Percentile Result = 2.5 ppb. Number of Samples above the Action Level (15) = 0.

(c) 90^{th} Percentile Result = 977 ppb. Number of Samples above the Action Level (1300) = 1.

(d) Chlorine is added at Well 1 to maintain a disinfectant residual in the distribution system. During 2009 daily samples of treated water analyzed by the Hoschton lab reported chlorine ranging from 0.38 to 0.91 ppm.

(e) Hoschton failed to sample for Total Coliform Bacteria during 2009 which is a "Failure To Monitor" violation of EPD rules.

Background Information about Sources of Contaminants in Drinking Water in the USA

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 and human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic tank systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants,** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban 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, urban 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 tank systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State of Georgia and Federal EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. For bottled water, Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for the contaminants in bottled water. 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 water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)** or contacting additional information sources on the Internet:

http://www.epa.gov/ow http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/epa

Notice: 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 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Concerning Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead 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 Hoschton water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting 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 leading 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.

DEFINITIONS

(MCL) Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
(MCLG) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
(TT) Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
(AL) Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
(NTU): Nephelometric turbidity unit, a measure of the clarity of water.
(ppm): Parts per million means 1 per 1,000,000 (corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years, or 1 cent in $10 thousand.)
(ppb): Parts per billion means 1 per 1,000,000,000 (corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or 1 cent in $10 million.)

For more information about your water or this report please call Cindy George, Hoschton City Clerk, at (706) 654-3034 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. The regular City of Hoschton Council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month at City Hall, 79 City Square, Hoschton, Georgia 30548. Attendance and participation by the Public is invited.