

# City of Hoschton 2007 Annual Water Quality Report

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

We purchased 95% of our water from Jackson County Water Authority and groundwater was supplied for the remainder from the Piedmont Aquifer. We treat water with Chlorine for disinfection purposes and fluoride to help strengthen teeth and bones. The surface water is drawn from the Bear Creek Reservoir and we use Braselton as a backup source during emergency. No water was purchased from Braselton during the year 2007.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

A source water assessment (SWAP) identifying potential pollution sources which pose a risk to Bear Creek's water sources was conducted in July 2002 by Brown & Caldwell.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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, 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 systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

Our regularly scheduled council meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. City Hall is located at 79 City Square, Hoschton. If you wish to attend please notify the City Clerk 5 days in advance.

# Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA and the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

	MC LG	MCL,						
	or	TT, or	Your	Range		Sample		
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MR DL G</u>	<u>MRDL</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Viola- tion</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>

### Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products

(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)

Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.89	0.82	0.91	2007	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	45	NA		2007	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	66	NA		2007	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Inorganic Contaminants

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.81	0.78	0.84	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.44	NA		2007	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Microbiological Contaminants

Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	0	NA		2007	No	Naturally present in the environment
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			Your	Sample	# Samples	Exceeds	
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Exceeding AL</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>

### Inorganic Contaminants

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1	2006	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.5	2006	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.
<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The level of concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level