

Saving Water Works! Over the past 10 years, Fulton County's population (along with the metro-Atlanta area), has increased significantly. In order to ensure an adequate water supply for the future, proactive steps must be taken. Customers can successfully increase their water use efficiency and lower their water bills with the help of information and education. Below are some helpful "water wise" tips:

- Check for and fix faucet and toilet leaks
- Wash only full loads in clothes and dish washers
- Water lawn slowly and deeply in the early morning
- Use native and drought-tolerant plants in your landscape.



To learn more about ways you can conserve water please contact Jennifer McLaurin at jennifer.mclaurin@fultoncountyga.gov or 404-612-8745.

Need more information?

Water quality and safety are increasingly complex and the information in this brief summary may not answer all of your questions. If you have questions about this report, concerns about water quality, or input about your water supply, treatment and water delivery, please contact:

Corlette Banks, Fulton County Water Services, at 404-612-8097 during normal business hours.

An online version of this report is available at <http://ww2.co.fulton.ga.us/county/dpw>.

Additional copies of this report are available at your local public library.



Looking Down the Road

What does the future hold in terms of water treatment and drinking water? Like other utilities around the country, Fulton County is updating its treatment plant and exploring new techniques in preparation for upcoming regulations and greater protection from contaminants in the future.

In order to minimize public health and safety risks, resulting from the loss of water production at our water treatment facility, upgrades to the facility were completed in the fall of 2006. The project included plant improvements to provide redundancy for critical equipment/processes and a second raw water reservoir to bring the total reservoir capacity up to 1 billion gallons (20 day water supply).

Fulton County Public Works Department
141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 6001
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-612-7400



Important information about your drinking water

Este informe contiene la información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Annual Water Quality Report 2007



WSID GA 1210005

Water testing performed from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Water Quality

This water quality report, a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, is intended to share with you what the Fulton County Department of Public Works is doing to ensure that public health and safety are protected in our drinking water supply. Therefore, the focus of this report is on where your water comes from, how it is treated, what contaminants were detected and related health information.

To our public:

Fulton County Department of Public Works is proud to present our valued customers with the 2007 Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This report covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2006. As always, Fulton County's 250 dedicated water supply, treatment, and delivery professionals are committed to providing you with drinking water that is safe, pleasing, and dependable. We are required to conduct extensive monitoring of the drinking water supplied to our customers on a continuous basis. The few substances of regulatory concern that were detected in our water are reported to our customers each year. We are especially happy to be able to report that the quality of our water is excellent, meeting or exceeding the standards and requirements set by the EPA. But don't take our word for it, please read the detailed findings in this report for yourself.

Where do we get our water?

The source of our drinking water for the North Fulton Water System is the Chattahoochee River which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County and several environmental groups. This surface water supply is processed at the Atlanta / Fulton County Water Resources Commission (AFCWRC) treatment plant located in Alpharetta. This plant produces drinking water of the highest quality and has won numerous awards from the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.



During winter months, the average daily water use in the Fulton County Water System is about 30 million gallons per day (MGD). The average use in the summer is about 41 MGD. Throughout the production process, chemical additions and numerous physical assessments are made by certified technicians to monitor and maintain water quality.

Protecting Our Watersheds

Fulton County needs your help!! We are looking for volunteer stream monitors to collect water quality data on our streams. This data is very useful to the County to help determine the health of our precious water resources and to alert us to potential problems. If you would like to know more about the Adopt-A-Stream program or to sign up for a training workshop about how to conduct basic water quality tests on your local waterway, please contact Sharon Smith at sharon.smith@fultoncountyga.gov or 404-612-8006.

Source Water Assessment

Program

Fulton County Public Works received a source water assessment study and report of the surface water source (the Chattahoochee River) for the AFCWRC treatment plant which supplies drinking water to the majority of north Fulton County. This assessment reviewed the adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the Chattahoochee River. These risks include, but are not limited to, gas stations, agricultural fields, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities. Once the adjacent land uses were identified, they were ranked as to their potential to cause water pollution. The assessment has ranked the Chattahoochee River watershed to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. This information can help communities to understand the potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting the Chattahoochee River.



The complete report is available online at <http://ww2.co.fulton.ga.us/county/dpw> or can be requested by mail from the Fulton County Department of Public Works at 141 Pryor Street, SW, suite 6001, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

You're Invited!

Fulton County Public Works wants to keep the public informed about their water quality. We believe that informed customers are our best allies, and we are dedicated to giving you the information you need to make knowledgeable decisions about your drinking water. You can participate through public hearings associated with environmental permitting and reviewing of new facilities. Notice of upcoming meetings is posted at the Government Center and other government buildings and on our web site at www.fultoncountyga.gov and click "Events."

Citizens who wish to address the Atlanta Fulton County Water Resource Commission (AFCWRC) about water issues or other non-agenda items may do so at their quarterly meetings. For details on meeting dates and location, please contact Kathy Crews at 770-664-7455, x126, or kcrews@afcwrc.com.



WHAT'S IN OUR WATER?

Included in this report are tables depicting contaminants that have been detected in our water. They are, in all cases, BELOW the levels prescribed by the EPA but, nevertheless, are present. They pose no known health risk at these levels. We have listed a few definitions to help you understand the information in the tables.

90th percentile: is a calculation that determines compliance with the regulation for Copper and Lead. If this number is less than the action limit, the system is compliant.

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

Exemptions: A State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit): The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity.

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion is the same as one penny in 10 million dollars.

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million is the same as one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

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

Turbidity: Measurement of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants and our filtration system.

Variance: A State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.



^AEPA Regulated Substances Not Related to Disinfection

| Substance or Contaminant | Units | EPA Goal MCLG | EPA Maximum Amount Allowed MCL | Amount Detected or Action Level | Range Found (lowest to highest) | Does the Water Meet EPA Standards? | Probable Source of the Contaminant |
|--|-------------|---------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| ^b Copper (50 samples tested from consumer taps) | ppm | 1.3 | Action Level (AL)=1.3 No more than 5 samples above AL allowed | 90 th percentile 0.073 | # of samples above Action Level 0 | Yes | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| ^b Lead (50 samples tested from consumer taps) | ppb | 0 | Action Level (AL)=15 No more than 5 samples above AL allowed | 90 th percentile 6.7 | # of samples above Action Level 2 | Yes | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| ^c Fluoride | ppm | 4 | 4 | 0.94 | 0.86 - 1.03 | Yes | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrate-Nitrite) | ppm | 10 | 10 | 0.32 | n/a | Yes | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tank sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| ^d Total Coliform (% positive samples in the total # of samples taken per month) | % | 0% | ≤ 5% | 2% | 0% - 2.0% | Yes | Naturally present in the environment |
| Total Organic Carbon | n/a (ratio) | n/a | TT=≥1 | 1.01 | 1.01 - 1.07 | Yes | Naturally present in the environment |
| Turbidity | NTU | 0 | TT=5 TT-% of samples <0.3 | .04 100% | 0.03 - 0.08 | Yes | Soil runoff |

EPA Regulated Substances Related to Disinfection

| Substance or Contaminant | Units | EPA Goal MCLG | EPA Maximum Amount Allowed MCL | Amount Detected or Found | Range Found (lowest to highest) | Does the Water Meet EPA Standards? | Probable Source of the Contaminant |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Chlorine | ppm | MRDLG 4 | MRDL 4 | 0.78 | 0.07-1.32 | Yes | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Haloacetic Acid | ppb | n/a | 60 | 23.3 | 0.0 - 35.0 | Yes | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Total Trihalomethane | ppb | n/a | 80 | 31.0 | 0.0 - 42.8 | Yes | By-product of drinking water chlorination |

NOTES:

- This water system has exemptions and variances (see table for definitions) for the following parameters: asbestos and radium, last tested in 2002.
- Samples for copper and lead are collected at the tap per federal requirements. A violation will occur if the action level for copper or lead is exceeded by more than 5 tap samples or 10% of the 50 tap samples collected and tested.
- Fluoride data is reported as a yearly average. Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1ppm.
- This water system is required to collect 120 samples monthly. A violation will occur if more than 5% (6 samples) are positive for Total Coliform in any month. This has never happened.

FOG-free means Clog-free!

Every year Fulton County spends thousands of dollars to keep the sanitary sewer system flowing freely. When fats, oils, and greases (FOG) go down the drain, they collect and solidify around the inside wall of the sewer lines causing the flow to be constricted. When sanitary sewer lines become impacted, a sewer system overflow or blockage occurs. By following some simple methods for grease disposal, you can help keep Fulton County's sanitary sewer system clog-free. Contact Fernell Patterson for more information about the Residential FOG program at: fernell.patterson@fultoncountyga.gov or 404-612-8110.

Contaminants in 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;
- 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

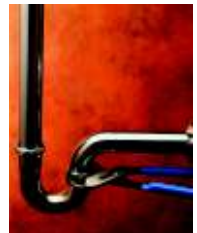
Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Copper and Lead: Are you at Risk? Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Remember to run your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water and always use cold tap water for food and beverage preparation. Hot tap water can leach higher amounts of lead and other metals from plumbing or your hot water tank.



In 2009, Fulton County will conduct its next examination of the North Fulton Water Distribution System for quantities of copper and lead. If your home was built before 1969, and you want a free analysis of your water for copper and lead, contact us at 770-640-3061, ext. 124 or 125 or jamaal.hamilton@FultonCountyga.gov to see if you qualify.