



DOUGLASVILLE-DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

2016 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Annual Report on Drinking Water in Douglas County

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

The Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority (WSA) is pleased to report, once again, that your community's drinking water has met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and the USEPA during the past year.

WSA has been supplying the community with the highest quality drinking water possible since 1986 and has never had a water quality violation in its history. Douglas County's drinking water supply is surface water drawn from the Dog River Reservoir located in the western section of the county. It is then treated at the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant. This annual report, called the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), gives us the opportunity to provide you with a detailed accounting of all the monitoring data gathered from water quality testing during 2015 which went into producing your award-winning drinking water.



The best way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source water clean and pollution free.

The Dog River Recreational Complex

The 256-acre Dog River Reservoir holds 1.9 billion gallons of water—the County's principal drinking water source supply. The Recreational Complex was opened in 1994 to provide Douglas County residents with an opportunity to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the area. Because the Complex was built with water quality as the main priority, the forested areas, which naturally filter water, were preserved and the roadbeds were built with gravel to absorb motor oil and other urban runoff. Preserving water quality is also why public use of the Reservoir and Recreational Complex is restricted to Douglas County residents, property owners, business owners, and their guests. Enjoy a pleasant day of boating, fishing off the dock, and picnicking with the family at our Complex.



Please visit our website, www.ddcwsa.com, for hours, information, and more regarding the Recreational Complex.

Public Education and Involvement Opportunities

Did you know you can go behind the scenes at our water and wastewater plants? We offer free tours of our facilities so you can get up close and personal with the processes we use to deliver the best service to Douglas County. Call (770) 920-3850 for more information.

WSA can also be found around the community educating customers about important water issues. Look for us at local festivals or in the school system participating in Career Day, Shadow Day, and Touch-a-Truck. We also host free community seminars on topics such as stormwater, septic tank maintenance, and water conservation. Check out our website, www.ddcwsa.com, for upcoming opportunities and events in your area.

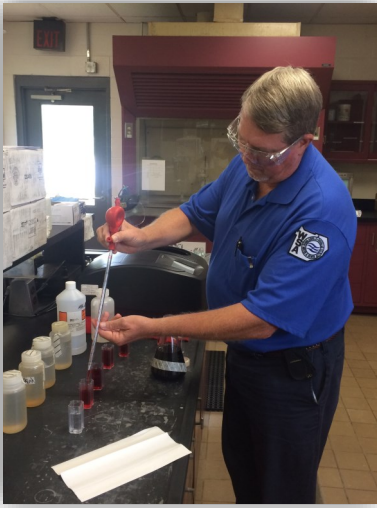


The public is invited to attend the WSA Board Meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.) and the Board work sessions (last Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.) Visit www.ddcwsa.com for more information.

If you would like more information about this report, the quality of your drinking water, or any aspect of WSA's operations, please contact Water Operations Manager Steve Green at (770) 949-7617 or sgreen@ddcwsa.com. General questions, comments, and concerns can be directed to AskWSA@ddcwsa.com.

Testing the Quality of Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public utility systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. WSA tests your drinking water continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tests are conducted for chemicals and disease-causing microorganisms (bacteria and protozoa) in compliance with requirements set by the EPA and EPD and under the supervision of State-certified operators and laboratory analysts. The parasites, cryptosporidium and giardia, are source water contaminants that are common in surface water. In this testing period, cryptosporidium was not detected in the raw water supplies nor the treated drinking water. Giardia was found in low levels in the raw water supply, but was not found in any treated drinking water. For more information on these contaminants and the diseases associated with them, visit www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia and www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto.



“Why are there contaminants in drinking water?”

As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and picks up pollutants from the presence of human or animal activity. This polluted water continues to travel into rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells (all of which can be a source of 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 the water poses a health risk. More information on contaminants may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline** at **(800) 426-4791**.

“Should I be worried about lead in my water?”

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. WSA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in private plumbing components. 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** at **(800) 426-4791** or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Well informed customers are our best allies!

What May be Present in Source Water Before it is Treated...

- **Microbial Contaminants:** include viruses and bacteria which may come from agricultural livestock operations, septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants:** include 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:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Radioactive Contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants:** include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also can come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

NOTICE: Although WSA's water meets all guidelines for quality, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer who are 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. 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** at **(800) 426-4791**.

Does your home-maintenance routine include periodically draining your hot water heater?

Most manufacturers recommend draining your hot water heater once a year. Rust and particles from the heater can build up in the bottom, eventually clogging the drain valve and shortening the life of the heater. While you are at it, you might want to check your pressure reducing valve. Over time, the valve can wear out, sometimes at a very inopportune moment, putting a serious pressure strain on the hot water heater. Always drink and cook with water from the cold water faucet rather than the hot water faucet to avoid getting the particles which can deposit in the bottom of the hot water heater.



A typical single-family home uses 60 gallons of water per person per day!

Source Water Assessments

WSA and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) completed a source water assessment to identify potential sources of surface water pollution to the Dog River Reservoir and to the Bear Creek Reservoir, a supplemental water supply source. Land use in these watersheds is primarily open/forest or agricultural crop land. In the Dog River watershed, which is 5.6% impervious surface, 57 potential individual sources of pollution were identified. In the Bear Creek watershed, which is 9.7% impervious, 8 pollution sources were identified. Most information about the overall results and “medium” ranking of this assessment can be found on the ARC’s website at www.atlantaregional.com/environment/water or you can request information via mail by writing to:

Atlanta Regional Commission, Environmental Planning Division, 40 Courtland Street, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303.

“What do I have to do with polluting water?”

Even if you live miles away from a river or stream, you may be polluting the water without even knowing it. Pollutants coming from our homes and many other sources contribute to *urban nonpoint pollution*, a growing problem not just in Douglas County, but all across the state. A few examples of *urban nonpoint pollution* include pet waste, sediment, used motor oil, garden chemicals, paint, and chemicals we might use in our home for cleaning. These substances flow through the storm drain system into local streams and empty directly into the river, where they harm wildlife and aquatic life, ruin recreational areas, and threaten the quality of our water sources.

“Is it okay to flush my expired medication?”

Although flushing unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs was once thought to be the proper method of disposal, **it is not!** The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for the proper disposal are as follows:

“Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers and throw them in the trash. Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as kitty litter or coffee grounds, and put them in an impermeable, non-descript container like a sandwich bag or empty can, which will further ensure the drugs are not diverted. **Flush prescription drugs down the toilet ONLY if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs doing so.**” The Douglas County Sheriff’s Department also has drop boxes located around the county to collect medication for proper disposal.

Help Prevent Sewer Backups: Be a FOG Fighter

Do you know the most common causes of sewer backups? Just think FOG: fats, oils, and grease! When these sticky substances travel down your drain, they congeal and begin to build up in your pipes, restricting the flow of sewage. This blockage can cause a back up in your home, your neighbor’s home, or the nearest sewer system manhole, which can lead to harmful waste entering our waterways. Remember to always scrape grease and food scraps into the trash. Taking a few extra seconds to properly dispose of FOG in your home can save you a huge headache down the (sewer) line!

FATS	OILS	GREASE
Solid at room temperature	Liquid at room temperature	Turns to liquid during cooking, but solidifies when cooled
Butter, shortening, margarine Peanut butter Meat trimmings Uncooked poultry skin Dairy: Cheeses, milk, cream, sour cream, ice cream	Vegetable oil Canola oil Olive oil Corn oil Salad dressings Cooking oils	Gravy Mayonnaise Melted meat fat Bacon and sausage Boiled poultry skin Salad dressing

While WSA tests for hundreds of contaminants in your water, only a few were detected in 2015 and none pose a significant health risk. WSA also monitors for unregulated parameters to assist the EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary. All laboratory testing results are available for public inspection. For more information, call (770) 949-7617. The results in these tables are from tests performed in the WSA and Georgia Environmental Protection Division's laboratories.

TABLE OF CONTAMINANTS

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS					
CONTAMINANT (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Level Detected/Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Flouride (mg/L)	4	4	0.84 mg/L (0.67 - 0.95 mg/L)	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (mg/L)	10	0	0.23 mg/L (0.23 mg/L)	Y	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING					
CONTAMINANT (units)	AL **	MCLG	90th Percentile Value/Number of Samples Exceeding AL	Pass?	Major Sources
Lead (ug/L)	15 **	0	2.5 ug/L (1 sample exceeded the AL)***	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ug/L)	1300**	1300	140 ug/L (0 samples exceeded the AL)***	Y	
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (UNREGULATED)					
CONTAMINANT (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average and Level Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Bromodichloromethane (ug/L)	NA	NA	3.1 ug/L	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane (ug/L)	NA	NA	ND	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ug/L)	NA	NA	7.9 ug/L	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (REGULATED)					
CONTAMINANT (units)	MCL	MCLG	Highest Rolling Average/Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (ug/L)	80*	0	47.9 ug/L (14.6 - 80.4 ug/L)	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ug/L)	60*	NA	39.0 ug/L (21.0 - 52.0 ug/L)	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection
CONTAMINANT (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Removal Ratio/Range Detected	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Organic Carbon	TT =>1.0	NA	1.18 (1.16 - 1.23)	Y	Naturally present in environment; soil runoff
TURBIDITY					
PARAMETER	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected/Lowest % of Samples <= 0.30 NTU	Pass?	Major Sources
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	NA	0.2/100%	Y	Soil runoff
Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water and an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Each month, 95% of turbidity samples must be less than or equal to 0.30 NTU. None may exceed 1 NTU.					
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS					
CONTAMINANT	MCL	MCLG	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	Pass?	Major Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	=>5%+ positive samples during a monthly testing period	0 positive samples during a monthly testing period	1.80%	Y	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment
FREE CHLORINE RESIDUAL					
CONTAMINANT (units)	MCL	MCLG	Average Value	Pass?	Major Sources
Free Chlorine (mg/L)	4	NA	1.25 mg/L	Y	Chemical added for disinfection

Helpful Hints for Understanding the Consumer Confidence Report

Milligrams per Liter (mg/L): one milligram per liter is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

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 below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Micrograms per Liter (ug/L): one microgram per liter is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

ND: none detected

NA: not applicable

NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit

* MCL based on rolling 4QRT average for all sample points

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

*** Samples collected June 1 through September 30, 2013.