

2023 Water Quality Report

Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water

WALKER COUNTY RURAL WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY • 25 SHIPP ROAD, LAFAYETTE, GA 30728 • PHONE: 706-764-2950

SYSTEM NUMBER GA2950014 • THIS REPORT CONTAINS INFORMATION COLLECTED BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

Dear Valued Customer,

The Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority (ID# GA2950014) thank you for the opportunity to supply you with clean, reliable water. **We are extremely pleased to report that your water met or surpassed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for safe drinking water.**

This Water Quality Report provides our customers with monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality test during **2023**. The table inside shows your water exceeds all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). **Copies of all state test results are on file and open to public review.**

It is our goal at Walker County Rural Water and Sewer Authority to provide the safest and highest quality water possible to all of our customers. We are pleased to present this information to our customers since well-informed customers are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

For more information about this report or questions regarding your drinking water, please call (706) 764-2950.

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice any of your concerns about our drinking water. The board of directors meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Authority's office – 25 Shipp Road – LaFayette, Georgia.

Tim Mason, Chairman
James Edgeman, Member

Bill Winkles, Member
Billy Coulter, Member

Gene Garrett, Secretary

Where Your Water Comes From?

One of the most important factors in water quality is its source: the purer the source, the better the water. The majority of our water comes from a groundwater source (two wells located close to the intersection of County Line Road and Huffman Road). Groundwater is considered the safest and highest quality water available for human consumption because it is not exposed to the air or subject to direct pollution or contamination like rivers and reservoirs.

The water quality of our wells is so high no filtering is necessary. Chlorine is added at the well site, and a chlorine residual of 1.0 to 1.6 parts per million is maintained throughout the system. The Authority provides approximately 385,000 gallons of water per day to our customers.

We also purchase water from the Catoosa Utility District Authority, CUDA, which comes from Yates Springs as a backup water source to supplement our supply when demand exceeds production.

What's In My Drinking Water?

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 the water poses a health risk.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground on its way to our well sources, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, vegetation and, sometimes, even radioactive material. It can also pick up animal waste, pesticides, and debris from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include the following:

- **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 storm runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drink Water Hotline at (800)-426-4791.

Testing Parameters

The State and U.S. EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed in the table are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and the amount. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases the most recent sample date and year collected are included. Since we purchase water at times from Catoosa Utilities, we have included columns showing their testing results.

2023 REGULATED SUBSTANCES					WCRWSA		CUDA		VIOLAT-ION	Typical Source of Contaminant
SUBSTANCES	UNITS	YEAR	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AVG	Range	AVG	Range		
PHYSICAL										
Turbidity	NTU	2023	TT	NA	NA	NA...	.10	0.04-0.25	NO	Soil runoff.
METALS										
Barium	ppm	2022	2	2	0.061	.061-.061	0.071	.08-.08	NO	Discharge of drilling waste; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC										
Chlorine	ppm	2023	4	4	1.00	1 - 1	1.42	1.40-1.68	NO	Water additive used for disinfection
Fluoride	ppm	2023	4	4	NA	NA	0.74	0.72-0.76	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from factories; water additive promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (ppm)	ppm	2023	10	10	2.00	1.5-1.5	0.88	0.86-0.86	NO	Runoff from fertilizers use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
BACTERIOLOGICAL										
Total Coliform	% pos.	2023	5% (d)	0	ND	NA	ND	NA	NO	Bacteria Naturally present in the environment; used as an indication that potentially harmful bacteria may be present
E. coli	% pos.	2023	5% (d)	0	ND	NA	ND	NA	NO	
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS										
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	2023	60	NA	0	0-0	1.0	1.86-4.72	NO	By-product of water chlorination
Trihalomethanes	ppb	2023	80	NA	0.8	0-1.9	3.80	7.12-11.85	NO	By-product of water chlorination
UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES										
Sodium	ppm	2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2023 COPPER AND LEAD: Tap water samples collected from 10 homes throughout service area.										
SUBSTANCES	UNITS	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Sites above the Action level	VIOLAT-ION	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Copper	ppb	2023	1300	1300	0.12	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems		
Lead	ppb	2023	15	0	2.2	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems		

Definition of Terms:

WCRWSA – The Walker County Rural Water & Sewer Authority

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

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.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no know or expected risk to health. Mclgs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of 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.

CUDA – The Catoosa Utility District Authority

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

ppb - Parts Per Billion: One part per billion is equal to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

ppm - Parts Per Million: One part per million is equal to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

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

Lead: EPA requires the authority to test water at the customers tap. Tap test show where a customer may have lead pipes or lead soldered copper pipes, the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels of less than 15 ppb. 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 household plumbing. Walker County Rural Water & Sewer Authority 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 lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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.” U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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).