

City of Barnesville, Georgia

2015 Water Quality Report

Your Water is Safe to Drink

Last year we conducted more than 1400 tests for over 86 drinking water contaminants. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with the information because we want you to be informed. For more information about your water, call 770/358-2356 and ask for Brandon Lewis or Christy Allison.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducir la informacion.

Special Population Advisory

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/Center For Disease Control guidelines on how to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800/426-4791.

Drinking Water Sources

Area 1's water comes from the Eady Creek Reservoir and the Towaliga River. Area 2's water comes from a blend of the Ocmulgee and Towaliga Rivers. Source water assessment information may be obtained by calling the Georgia Environmental Protection Division at 404/651-5167.



Public Participation Opportunities

If you are interested in participating in water policy decisions please contact City Hall for a schedule of City Council Meetings. These meetings are open to the public. You can reach City Hall at 770/358-0181.

Contaminants in 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 EPA's 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides & herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential use.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including 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.

Water Quality Monitoring

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2015. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

- **AL:** Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **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:** 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.
- **N/A:** not applicable
- **nd:** not detectable at testing limit
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter -- (corresponds to one minute in two years)
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter -- (corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years)
- **TT:** Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

| Substance | MCL in mg/L | MCLG | Area 1 Level Detected | Area 2 Level Detected | Violation (Y or N) | Typical Source of Contamination |
|--|----------------|------|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria 2015 | <5%positive | 0 | 0 | 1 | N | Naturally present in the environment |
| Turbidity (NTU) 2015 | 0.3 | N/A | 0.29 max 100% below the TT value of 0.3* | 0.19 max 100% below the TT value of 0.3* | N | Soil runoff into natural waters. |
| 100 % of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3 NTU. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.30. Any measurement in excess of 1 NTU is a violation unless otherwise approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) | | | | | | |

| Substance | MCL in mg/L | MCLG | Area 1 Level Detected | Area 2 Level Detected | Violation (Y or N) | Typical Source of Contamination |
|---|-------------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Copper (ppm) 2013 | 1.3 AL | 0 | 0.11 | 0.14 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Fluoride (ppm) 2015 | 4 | 4 | Average 0.74 | Average 0.79 | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Lead (ppb) 2013 | 15 AL | 0 | 7.0 | 2.5 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium (ppm) 2015 | - - - | --- | 5.6 | --- | N/A | Byproduct from chemical treatment; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | | | | | | |
| Haloacetic Acids (ppm) 2015 | 0.06 | N/A | 0.049 Range: (0.033-0.061) | 0.028 Range: (0.008-0.037) | N | By-Product of drinking water chlorination |
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppm) 2015 | 0.08 | N/A | 0.057 Range: (0.026-.093) | 0.087 Range: (0.038-0.118) | (AREA 1) N (AREA 2) Y* | By-Product of drinking water chlorination. |

***Violation**

Testing results from 3rd quarter sampling showed that the Butts County system (Area 2) exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs). The standard for TTHMs is 80 ppb averaged at an individual monitoring location over the year. During the 3rd quarter Butts County's (Area 2) TTHM annual running average levels were 83.6 at Site 1, 87.0 at Site 2, and 82.6 at Site 4. TTHMs, which are four volatile organic chemicals, form when chlorine disinfectant reacts with natural organic matter in the water. Butts County is working to minimize the formation of TTHMs while ensuring an adequate level of disinfection to protect customers from exposure to bacteria. Butts County is also installing an aeration/ mixing system that will strip out TTHMs from water in the distribution system. Since the third quarter of 2015, Butts County has taken 2 sets of quarterly samples at all locations, and all have met the MCL standard of 80 ppb for TTHMs.

Turbidity: Turbidity has no health affects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Lead: 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. The City of Barnesville 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>.

This water quality report was prepared by ESG Operations, Inc., as a service to the City of Barnesville, PWS ID GA1710000.