

Georgia Water System I.D. Number: (GA) - 0570002

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Presented by Cherokee  
County Water and  
Sewerage Authority  
(CCWSA): January 1, 2025  
through December 31, 2025

**Voted Best Tasting Tap Water in Georgia!**



For more information, call CCWSA at 770-479-1813 Ext. 1176, Lori Forrester, CCWSA Public Information Specialist. Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at [www.waterdata.com](http://www.waterdata.com)

We are proud to report that we have had no violations in 2025. This Annual report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests and contains information about water and health

En la CCWSA, estamos orgullosa que en el año 2025 no tuvimos ninguna violación. Este informe anual muestra nuestra fuente de agua, numera los resultados de nuestras pruebas, y contiene información sobre el agua y su salud. Para más información sobre el contenido de este reporte, puede llamar al 770-479-1813 ext.1137.

CCWSA draws surface water from the Etowah River and treats it at the Etowah River Water Treatment Facility, The Etowah River Water Treatment facility has been in operation since 1986. This facility has the capacity to treat up to 38 MGD (million gallons per day) of drinking water. In 2025, an average of 20.544 MGD of drinking water was treated.

Our drought contingency reservoir, the Hollis Q. Lathem Reservoir, located on Yellow Creek, supplements water withdrawal of the drinking water plant in times of drought.

**We supplied over 7 billion gallons in 2025.**



**We provide clean reliable drinking water to more than 225,000 people daily.**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, 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 animal or human activity.

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. Environmental Protection Division (EPA) / Center 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) or on EPA's website [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater).

## An Explanation of the Water Quality Table

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water is listed here. The table contains a key of the units of measurement and initials, the name of each contaminant, the highest level allowed by regulation, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected (average), the usual sources of such contamination and footnotes explaining our findings.

### Glossary of Terms

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of the contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MDRL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants from the plant to your home.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

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

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

## Table Key

AL = Action Level  
 MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level  
 MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
 MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level  
 MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
 TT = Treatment Technique

PPM = Parts Per Million or milligrams per Liter (mg/L); one part per million is equivalent one penny in 10 thousand.  
 PPB = Parts Per Billion, or microgram per Liter (ug/L); one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million.  
 N/A = Not Applicable

## Water Quality Table

Contaminant	Year	Units	MCL/MRDL	MCLG/MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range Detected	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride - 1	2025	ppm	4	4	0.64	0.59-0.75	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additives which promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite - 2	2025	ppm	10	10	0.31	NA	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Chlorine	2025	ppm	4	N/A	1.24	0.2-1.9	Drinking water additive used for disinfection	NO
Total Organic Carbon	2025	ppm	TT	N/A	0.83	0.65-1.10	Naturally present in the environment	NO
Turbidity - 3	2025	NTU	TT=1	0	0.09	0.03-0.29	Soil runoff	NO
Total Trihalomethanes	2025	ppb	80	0	38.4	13.4-71.09	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	NO
Haloacetic Acids	2025	ppb	60	0	30.0	19.9-50.0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	NO
Contaminant	Year	Units	AL	MCLG	Range	Range	Major Sources	Violation
					Low	high		
Lead - 4	2024	ppb	15	0	0	220	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper - 5	2024	ppb	1300	0	0.9	2300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO

### Table Footnotes

1-Fluoride is added to the drinking water to help the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.

2-Nitrate and Nitrite measured together.

3-Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity rule requires that 95% or more of monthly samples must be below 0.30 NTU. During the reporting year, 100% of all samples taken to measure turbidity met water quality standards.

4-Of the 51 sites tested, one was above the AL. The site that tested above AL was collected from release valve of a filter. That site was retested, and result was under the AL. No violation occurs if 90% of the sample is below 15 ppb. Tested every 3 years - next round in 2027.

5-Of the 51 sites tested, one was above the AL.. The site that tested above AL was collected from release valve of a filter. That site was retested, and the result was under the AL No violation occurs if 90% of the sample is below 1300 ppb. Tested every 3 years - next round in 2027.

## Microbiological

Contaminants	Sample dates	MCL	MCLG	Level 1 Assessment Trigger - 6	Level detected	Likely source	Violation
Total Coliform (TC)	1/1/2025-12/31/2025	TT	TT	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0 Positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	NO
E.coli (EC)	1/1/2025-12/31/2025	0	0	N/A	0 Positive samples	Human or animal waste	NO

6-A PWS (Public Water System) will receive an E.coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste.

## Source Water Assessment

Freese and Nichols, Inc. was contracted by CCWSA in 2017 to complete a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of surface water pollution to our water resources. Your drinking water is supplied from the Etowah River. A Source Water Assessment is a study and report that provides the following information:

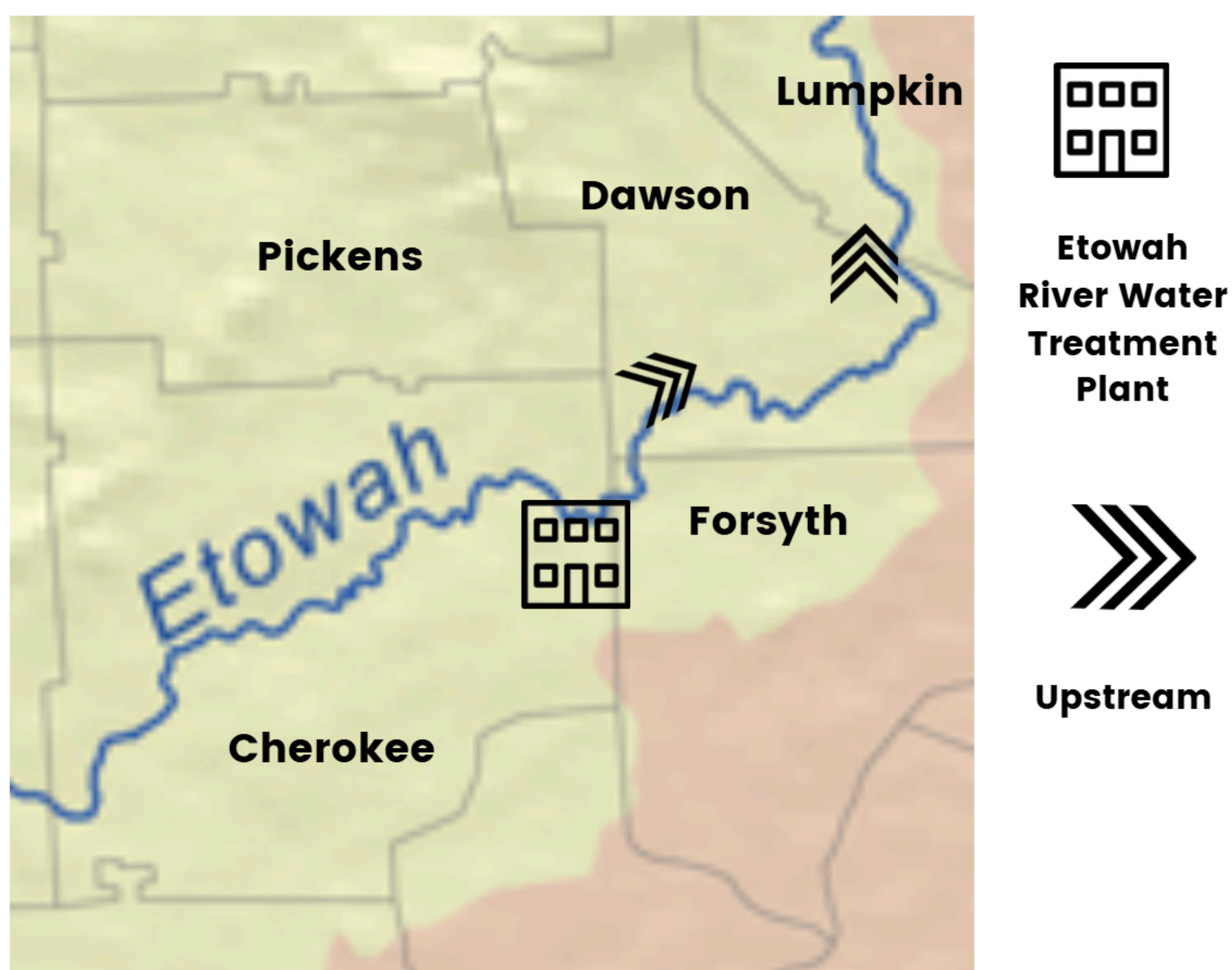
### SAFTEY IN ACTION

CCWSA water laboratory staff serve the community by continuously testing within the service area, making sure that the tap water within our distribution system is safe to drink once it leaves the plant. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems through the Safe Drinking Water Act. In order to do this, staff collects from a master list of 450 samples throughout the water distribution system. The number of samples is determined by GA EPD based on the population. Each month, 150 samples are collected and tested for chlorine residual and total coliform bacteria.

Flushing of lines occurs to maintain water quality. It reduces Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids, which are disinfection byproducts, plus helps maintain chlorine residuals. Flushing is done in more rural areas with less overall usage. In order to protect local waterways, the flushing water is de-chlorinated.

- Identifies the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water
- Identifies potential sources of contamination to the drinking water supply.
- Provides an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

The results of this assessment can be found on our website - <https://ccwsa.com/source-water-assessment/>



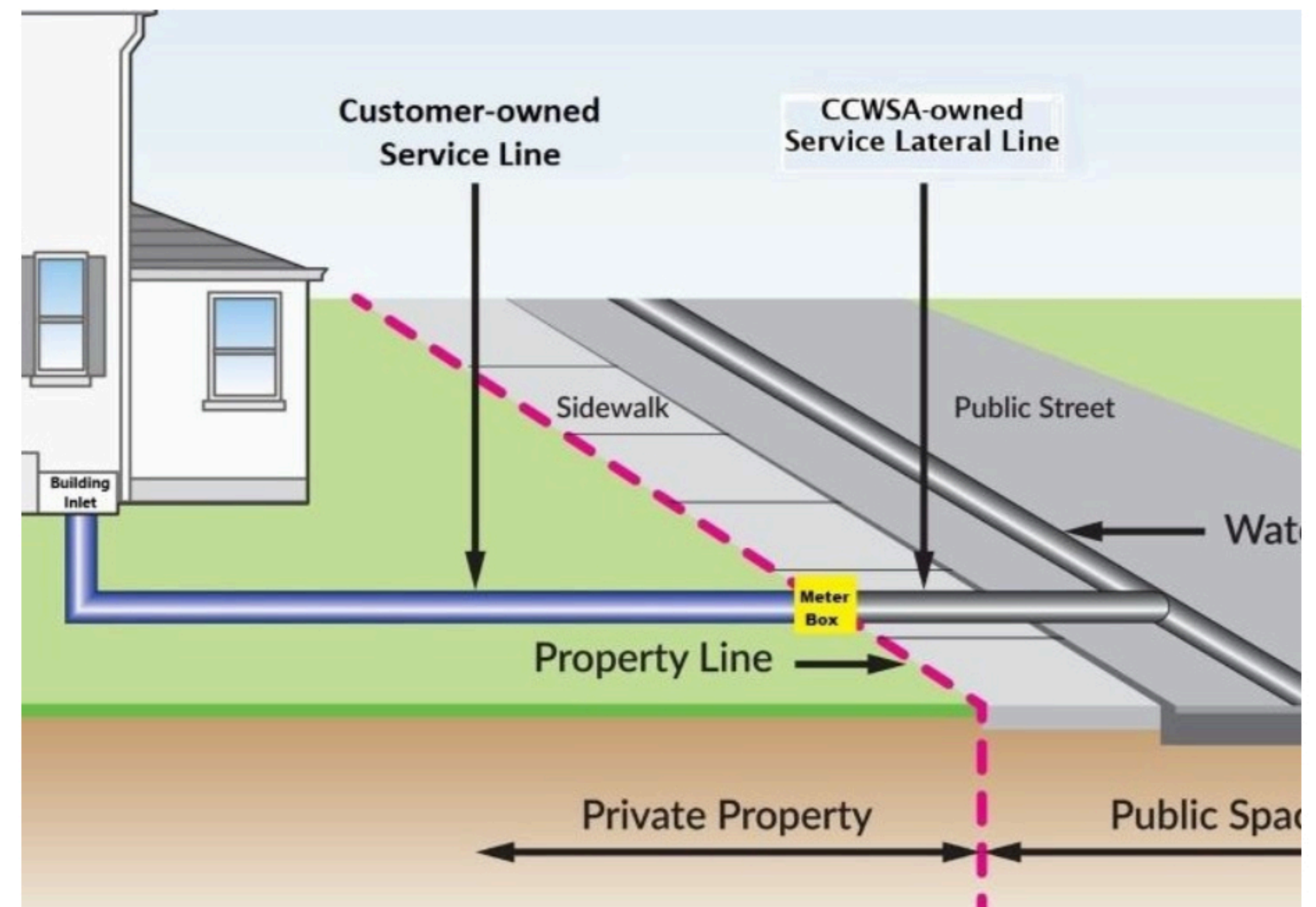
# Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

As part of the Lead and Copper Revision Rule (LCRR) published in December 2021, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required all community water systems to develop an inventory of all service line connections, both system-owned and customer-owned. Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority has meticulously developed this inventory, which is available at [www.ccwsa.com](http://www.ccwsa.com). After developing this inventory, all community water systems must notify customers with service lines designated as Lead, Galvanized Requiring Replacement, or Lead Status Unknown.

What is a service line? A service line is the piping that runs from the water meter to the building inlet. The portion of the line from the main to the meter is owned by the CCWSA and is referred to as a service lateral line. The portion of the line from the meter to the building inlet is customer-owned and is referred to as a service line. It is not part of the CCWSA-owned lines.

## Health Effects

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. CCWSA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.










In November 2024, ninety-one letters were sent to customers that had customer owned service lines that were identified as unknown in the inventory. Follow-up letters were sent in 2025.

## What you can do?

You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. To access all individual lead tap sample results or if you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Lori Forrester at 770-479-1813 Ext. 1176. Lead data can be found in the table on page 4.

## FAQ's

-  No Lead has been used or detected in CCWSA's system.
-  CCWSA has been monitoring and reporting lead data since 1992 and has over 1,000 samples analyzed.
-  Local building standards required Lead-Free Plumbing Materials since 1992.
-  There are no known public lead service laterals.
-  Since lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials used in individual homes the US Environmental Protection Agency requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps.
-  CCWSA treats our drinking water with an orthophosphate to control corrosion within the water distribution system.
-  CCWSA tests multiple times daily at our water production plant to maintain high water quality in the distribution system.

# What are PFAS?

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, are a group of over 6,000 man-made chemicals that have been manufactured and used in home consumer products such as carpets, clothing and food related products.

PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation and nonstick characteristics.

Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. U.S. EPA has determined there is evidence that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may cause adverse health effects.



CCWSA has tested for PFAS using analytical methods developed by the EPA and consensus organizations. This was required as part of the UCMR5 (Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule).



**All results were measured under the detection limit.**



CCWSA remains committed to meeting the regulations and providing high-quality drinking water.

# Education and Outreach

The goal of CCWSA's Education and Outreach is to provide our customers with quality water education so that they have the ability to make smart decisions for themselves and their community. We offer programs that have target audiences ranging from school age to adult learners. We cover topics from water cycle to household water audits and water treatment process. We are committed to giving valuable information to our customers so they can understand how precious a commodity water is and what they can do to protect it and use it wisely.

***"WHEN THE WELL IS DRY, WE KNOW THE WORTH OF WATER." - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN***



-  Environmental education programs
-  Promote special days/weeks with events and contests
-  Sponsor/judge the local science and engineering fair
-  Participate in career days and job fairs
-  Host river cleanups
-  Provide information and resources on our website and Facebook

# Awards

**Best Tasting Tap Water in Georgia: American Water Works Association – 1st place in District 1 – 1st place overall (April 2026) – 1st place District 1 – 2nd place overall (April 2025)!**

All additional awards listed were received in 2025

**Etowah Water Treatment Plant: Georgia Association of Water Professionals – Best Operated Water Plant of the Year for 25 to 49.99 MGD (Million Gallons Per Day). Platinum Award for complete and consistent Safe Drinking Water Act permit compliance during calendar year of 2024.**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Water Fluoridation Quality Award**

**Top Operator 2024: Georgia Association of Water Professionals – Dirk Petit – District 1**

**Consumer Confidence Report: Georgia Association of Water Professionals – Best Consumer Confidence Report – Gold Award – for the Salacoa Distribution System in the category of Small Surface System.**

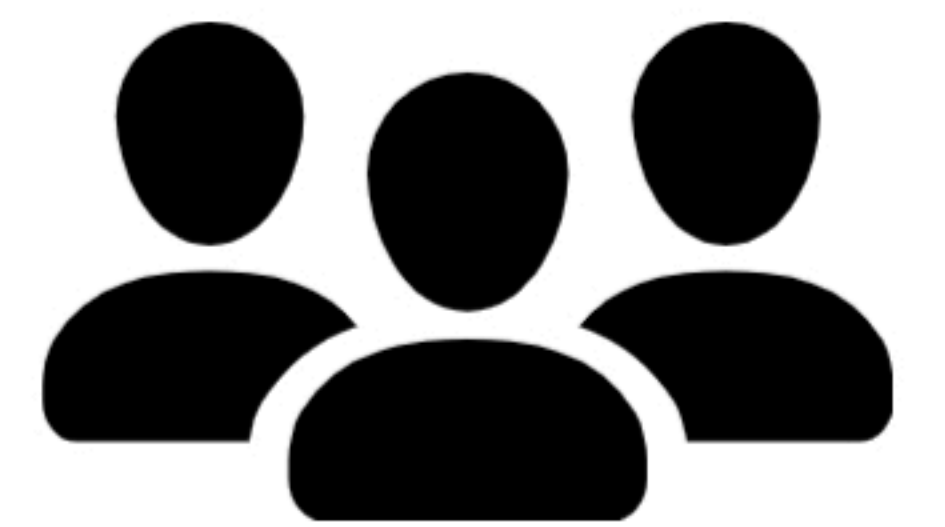
**Public Education Award: Georgia Association of Water Professionals – Education Program of Excellence Award for 2024**

**Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association.**

**Additional Georgia Association of Water Professionals awards were received for our wastewater plants.**



## Board Meetings



We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome. Regular board meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 110 Railroad Street – Canton, GA 30114. Even number months at 4:00 pm and odd numbered months at 9:00 am. Please call for holiday schedule.

## Water Plant Tours

Are you interested in seeing where your water comes from and how it is treated before it comes out of your faucet?

CCWSA offers water plant tours to the public year round. Tours last 1-2 hours and are available to individuals and small groups.



Contact Clint Blackwell at [clint@cherokeewaterga.gov](mailto:clint@cherokeewaterga.gov) or 770-479-2911 to schedule a tour.