

2020 Annual Water Quality Report

Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority

Cherokee Counties Salacoa Water Distribution System

Georgia Water System I.D. Number: GA) - 0570075

Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This annual water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains much important information about water and health.

Cherokee's Safe and Sustainable Water Begins Here!

Credit: Caleb Miller "Tower at Sunset"

Presented by



(January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020)

Water Source

The Cherokee County- Salacoa Area Water System purchases water from The Pickens County Water & Sewer Authority. The sources of Pickens County Water are purchased from: The City of Calhoun, The City of Jasper, The Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority and Big Canoe Mt. Resort. You may obtain a copy of Pickens County's water Quality report by contacting Mr. Phillip Dean, Director of Utilities at 706-253-8718, via e-mail: pdean@pickenscountyga.gov, or thru the website: www.pickenscountyga.gov

Check website for hours



Effective January 1, 2021

Catch and Release only on all species of Bass. No Bass (Largemouth or Spotted Bass) may be possessed, put on a stringer, in a cooler, or other means of keeping bass. All bass caught must be released at the time and location of the catch. This policy is put into place to help promote our Bass population and healthier size. DNR along with CCWSA employees will enforce this policy.

Sun-fish, catfish, and crappie can continue to be harvested according to State regulations.

CCWSA is implementing a fish tagging program on Bass species. If you catch a fish that has been tagged please help us research by recording the tag number, area number of the catch (Please check with the Reservoir Office for area # maps), weight, length, date, and species (Large Mouth or Spotted Bass).

There will be no organized fishing tournaments for the year of 2021.

The Reservoir encompasses 334 acres with about 15 miles of shoreline and is surrounded by 150 foot buffer. The lake is located in Cherokee and Dawson Counties; the entrance address is 5436 Cowart Road in Dawsonville, GA 30534.

A daily use fee of five (\$5) dollars per vehicle, with on site pay box and instructions.

A yearly pass may be purchased at the Reservoir Office for \$50 (check or cash)

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 in-person at 110 Railroad Street or virtually. Even numbered months at 4:00 pm. Odd numbered months at 9:00 am. Please call for the holiday schedule.

Check the website for details.

Lead in Drinking Water



Lead does not come from the treatment plants and water mains; it comes from lead service lines running between the water main in the street and the home, and from plumbing inside the home. We do not have lead service lines in our system. Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority collects samples for lead and copper analysis every three years as required by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, in accordance with federal rules. Because 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. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 ppb or if copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 ppm in more than 10% of customer taps sampled, the system must undertake a number of additional actions to control corrosion. Additionally CCWSA treats our drinking water with an orthophosphate to control corrosion within the water distribution system. The phosphate provides a layer of protection on the walls of the distribution pipes that decreases the potential corrosion of metals into the drinking water. CCWSA monitors corrosion within the water system through a corrosion coupon monitoring program. The program consists of mild steel strips that are placed throughout the distribution system and analyzed on a quarterly basis to determine the corrosion rate. Orthophosphate levels, along with the pH and alkalinity of CCWSA's finished drinking water, are tested multiple times daily at our water production plant to maintain very high water quality in the distribution system. 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 EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

Health Information

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 storm-water 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 storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are both responsible for the safety of drinking water. EPA regulates public drinking water (tap water), while FDA regulates bottled drinking water.

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

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

Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 microbial 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.*

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

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

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

Key To Table:

AL=Action Level

MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level

MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppm=parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l): one part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars;

ppb=parts per billion: one part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars; or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

TT=Treatment Technique—A required process intended to reduce the level in drinking water.

N/A=not applicable

Test Results

Contaminant	Year tested	Unit	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG	Average/Result	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper ¹	2019	ppb	AL = 1300	0	230	36-340 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of Natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.	NO
Fluoride ²	2020	ppm	4	4	0.67	0.53-0.81	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Lead ³	2019	ppb	AL=15	0	0.65	0-1.3 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Nitrate /Nitrite ⁴	2020	ppm	10	0	2.00	0.43-2.00	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewerage ; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Chlorine	2020	ppm	4	N/A	1.0	0.3-1.1	Drinking water additive used for disinfection	NO
Volatile Organic								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	2020	ppb	80	0	11.4	1.7-11.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	NO
HAAs [Haloacetic Acids]	2020	ppb	60	0	2.5	2.5	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	NO

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes: 1—No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL). Tested every 3 years. 2—Fluoride is added to the drinking water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children. 3—Of the 5 sites tested, none exceeded the Action Level (AL). Tested every 3 years. 4—Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.

Table continued

Microbiological

Contaminants	Sample Dates	MCL	MCLG	Level 1 Assessment Trigger ⁵	Level Detected	Likely Source	Violation
Total Coliform	Jan. 1, 2020— Dec. 31, 202-	TT	TT	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	0% Total Coli- form Positive (TC+)	Naturally Present in the environment	NO
E.coli	Jan. 1, 2020 — Dec. 31, 2020	0	0	n/a	0 positive	Human or animal fecal waste	NO

5 - 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 wastes.

Water Quality Lab

The CCWSA water laboratory staff serve the community by being out within the service area making sure that the tap water within our distribution system is still safe to drink once it leaves the plant. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems through the Safe Drinking Water Act. The number of samples is determined by GA EPD based on the population. Each month samples are collected and tested for chlorine residual and total coliform bacteria.

Flushing of lines occurs to maintain water quality. It reduces Total Trihalomerthames 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.



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/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**.

Education and Outreach



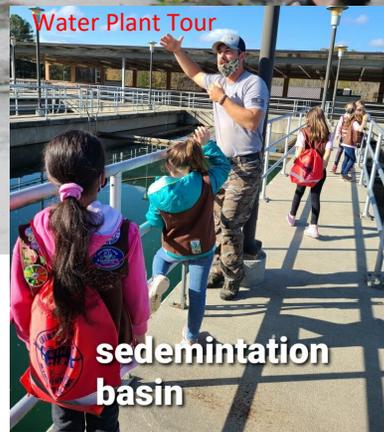
Drinking Water Week coloring contest K winner—Clayton ES



Cherokee HS Photo Contest winner



Scarecrow—Downtown Canton



Water Plant Tour

sedimentation basin



From Place to Place—TMS—Feb 2020

- ◆ Student Contests
- ◆ Georgia Model Water Tower Competition
- ◆ Facility Tours
- ◆ In-person/virtual Water Programs
- ◆ Career Days
- ◆ Science and Engineering Fair (local and state)



Science and Engineering Fair