

Cherokee County-Salacoa Area Water System

2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Presented by the

Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority

Georgia Water System I.D. Number:

(GA) - 0570075

Safe Drinking Water... Is Everyone's Business



Water Quality Surpasses All Standards

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

We are proud to report that the water provided by Cherokee County's Salacoa Area Water System meets or exceeds established water quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular Board Meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 110 Railroad Street (Even numbered months at 4:00 pm. Odd numbered months at 9:00 am.). Please call for the holiday schedule. The public is welcome.

Find out more about Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority on the Internet at www.ccwsa.com.

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:

- A. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- B. 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.
- C. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses.
- D. 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.
- E. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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See Our
Water Quality
Data Table On the Back.

Georgia's Streams Need Your Help

...There is still hope for Georgia's urban water a system...pollution isn't an inevitable consequence of growth and development. ... And we can all work together to make changes in our daily activities that will significantly reduce the nonpoint pollution generating from Georgia's towns and cities. ... By developing and practicing new water- conserving, non-polluting habits in and around our own homes, at our work place, and within our communities, we can work together to actively protect and clean up Georgia's urban waterways.

GA Dept. of Natural Resources,
www.georgiaadoptastream.com/

Water Source

The Cherokee County Salacoa Area Water System purchases water from The Pickens County Water & Sewer Authority. Pickens County Water sources are purchased water 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. Larry Coleman, Director of Utilities at 706-253-8718, via e-mail: lcoleman@pickenscountyga.gov, or thru the website: www.pickenscountyga.gov

For more information, call Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority at (770) 479-1813, x232, Dwight Turner.

Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.

Learn more about the Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority water system at www.ccwsa.com.

2015 Water Quality Report

An Explanation of the Water Quality Data Table

This table lists all the regulated drinking water contaminants detected during the calendar year. The EPA and/or the State require us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants change infrequently. Therefore, some of the data represented in this report is greater than one year old. All testing is done in accordance with regulations.

The 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.

Key To Table: AL=Action Level; MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level; MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; 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; N/A=not applicable

Water Quality Data Table								
Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL / MRDL	MCLG	Average / Results	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper (1)	2013	ppb	AL=1300	0	130	51-130 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. Next test Sept.2016 see NOTE	NO
Fluoride (2)	2015	ppm	4	4	1.10	0 - 1.10	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	NO
Lead (3)	2013	ppb	AL=15	0	2.5	0 - 2.5 5 samples	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Erosion of natural deposits Next test Sept. 2016 see NOTE	NO
Nitrate	2015	ppm	10	10	0.30	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	NO
Chlorine	2015	ppm	4	4	1.2	0.33 - 1.2	Drinking water additive used for disinfection.	NO
Microbiological								
Coliform	2015	%Pos.	5% Pos.	0 %	0 Pos.	N/A	Naturally present in the environment.	NO
E. - coli	2015	0 Pos.	0 Pos.	0 Pos.	0 Pos.	N/A	Fecal matter from warm blooded animals.	NO
Volatile Organic								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]	2015	ppb	80	0	24.7	4.3 - 24.7	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	NO
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids]	2015	ppb	60	0	2.3	0 - 2.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	NO

Water Quality Data Table Footnotes: (1) No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL). (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).

Health Information...

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Compliance with other Drinking Water Regulations

Although we ran many tests, only the listed substances were found. They are all below the MCL required

F. 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. 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. 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>

NOTE: If your home was built before 1/1/1983 or between the years of 1/1/1983 and 6/19/1988 and contains copper pipe with lead solder and you would like to participate in future Lead and Copper testing surveys, please call Joel McFarland -Cherokee County Water Laboratory Manager at 770-479-2911 X 244 BEFORE our next round of sampling in September, 2016.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. For more information call the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

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.