



# BARTOW COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT

## Annual Water Quality Report (2015 Water Testing Results)



### **SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT**

The United States Congress revised the "Safe Drinking Water Act" in 1996 setting standards for making Water Quality Reports available to the public. The Bartow County Water Department supports this effort and proudly presents this water quality report. For additional information regarding the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website @ [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline @ 1-800-426-4791. For information about

this water quality report, please contact Mr. Gene Camp, Bartow County Water Department Superintendent; P.O. Box 850; Cartersville, GA 30120 or call (770) 387-5170.

### **WATER QUALITY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

The Bartow County Water Department has received the following awards and recognitions for our drinking water quality excellence and operational performance:

- \* Operator's Meritorious Service Award (American Water Works Association, 1997)
- \* Certificate of Dedicated Service and Leadership (EPA & State of Georgia, 1997)
- \* Elizabeth McEntire Award (Georgia Water & Pollution Control Association, 1999)
- \* Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award
- \* Award of Excellence (American Water Works Association, 2002)

The Bartow County Water Department is determined to guarantee the continuation and improvement of our drinking water quality excellence through the implementation of advanced testing methods, technological developments and extensive environmental research provided to our department from our membership with professional organizations including the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Our department is also an active partner of the Bartow County Environmental Management System (EvMS), an association of local government and industrial organizations committed to analyzing and reducing the impacts of their activities upon the environment.



### **INFORMATION REGARDING DRINKING WATER SAFETY**

The Bartow County Water Department is pleased to report that the drinking water contained within our water utility system is **SAFE!** This Water Quality Report shows that our drinking water either meets or exceeds the requirements for safe drinking water as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

As health professionals learn more about our environment and the effect of substances in the environmental on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water quality. The Bartow County Water Department continues to add new technology and provides training for our employees in order to meet future standards.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources are fed by water that, at some time, passes over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves minerals and materials and can pick up substances that are the result of animal or human activity.

Categories of substances that may be present in source water are: **Biological** - These may come from human, agricultural or wildlife sources; **Inorganic** - These can be naturally occurring or from storm water run-off or industrial or domestic water discharges; **Pesticides & Herbicides** - These may come from storm water run-off from agriculture and/or residential use.; **Organic Chemicals** - These may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm water run-off and septic systems; **Radioactive Materials** - These may be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Division (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Notice: 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 donor transplants, persons 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.

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite too small to be seen without a microscope and may be assumed to exist in all surface waters. Cryptosporidium can cause symptoms that may include diarrhea, nausea, stomach cramps. Because many other conditions can produce these same symptoms, a special laboratory test is needed to determine whether Cryptosporidium is the cause. Samples of both treated and untreated water from our system have been sent to outside laboratories set up for such testing. Cryptosporidium has never been found in the drinking water that goes to your tap. The EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and all other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 Bartow County Water System 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 (1-800-426-4791) or @ <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## WATER SYSTEM RESOURCES

Acquiring, maintaining and distributing pristine water resources are the primary operational responsibilities and priorities of the Bartow County Water Department. The majority (91%) of our water utility system resources are obtained through contracts with the Cities of Adairsville, Cartersville, and Emerson and from water purchase agreements with the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority, and the Polk County Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Authority. The remaining water supply (9%) is provided from our independently owned and operated Bolivar Spring Water Treatment Plant located in northeastern Bartow County. Surface water withdrawn from Lake Allatoona in eastern Bartow County by our major suppliers constitutes approximately 86% of the total potable (drinkable) water volume within our water utility system. Annually, the Bartow County Water System is responsible for processing, treating and distributing 2.12 Billion Gallons (5.8 Million Gallons-Per-Day) of water to our serviced customers.

## DEFINITIONS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Non-Defects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates constituent is not present.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l)** - One Part per Million corresponds to one minute in 2 years or one penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (mg/l)** - One part per Billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000.

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L)** - A measure of radioactivity in water.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** - The "Goal" is 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.



### OUR WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The adjacent table shows the results of our water quality analyses. The table contains vital information derived from the testing of our water system and testing performed by our suppliers. Every regulated contaminant that has been detected in our water and/or the water of our suppliers, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. 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 and a key to the units of measurement. The definitions of MCL and MCLG are very important to understanding this table.

### BARTOW COUNTY WATER DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS (2015)

SUBSTANCE DETECTED	UNIT	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Safe ?	PROBABLE SOURCE
<i>(REGULATED SUBSTANCES)</i>						
FLOURIDE	PPM	4.0	4.0 2.0 (SMCL)	1.49	Yes	Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Erosion of natural deposits.
LEAD	PPB	0	15 (AL)	3.3	Yes	Corrosion of plumbing systems.
COPPER	PPB	1300	1300 (AL) 1000(SMCL)	180	Yes	Corrosion of plumbing systems.
NITRATE	PPM	10	10	1.2	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use.
TURBIDITY	NTU	N/A	0.3 (AL) 1.0	.25	Yes	Soil run-off.
<i>(NON-REGULATED SUBSTANCES)</i>						
IRON	PPM	0	0.1 (AL) 0.3 (SMCL)	.08	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Naturally occurring in trace amounts.
MANGANESE	PPM	0	0.03 (AL) 0.05 (SMCL)	.04	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Naturally occurring in trace amounts.
pH	Standard	6.8 (Low)	6.8 (AL) 6.5-8.5 (SMCL)	7.20 (L) 7.38 (H)	Yes	Lime added to control pH levels.
<i>(VOLITILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS)</i>						
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)	PPB	0	80	50.0	Yes	By-products of drinking water disinfection.
HAA's (HaloaceticAcids)	PPB	0	60	30.2	Yes	By-products of drinking water disinfection.
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	PPM	N/A	N/A	2.2	Yes	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from water sources such as lakes and streams.

### Special Notes

Water quality testing has consistently shown that lead and copper levels within our drinking water supply are below the Action Level that has been established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a direct result, the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has placed our water utility system within a reduced monitoring program. Our department has also received waivers from monitoring many of the regulated contaminants as none have ever been detected during water quality testing procedures and assessments have determined we have a very low vulnerability to these particular substances.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Safe Drinking Act regulations, please visit the EPA's website @ [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) or please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). For more information regarding this report, please contact Mr. Gene Camp, Superintendent; Bartow County Water Department; Post Office Box 850; Cartersville, GA 30120 or call (770) 387-5170.



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