

Houston County, GA's Elko, Feagin Mill, Haynesville & Henderson Systems

2015 Consumer Confidence Report

Your water meets all state and federal regulations

Last year we conducted more than 33,100 test for more than 80 drinking water constituents/contaminants. We only detected up to 6 constituents. 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 or to obtain water data including the sanitary survey call 478-953-1110 and ask for Grady Trussell.

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

Your water comes from the Cretaceous Sand Aquifer. The water is pumped from one of 19 wells. Wellhead Protection Program information for Houston County wells can be obtained from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Drinking Water Program, Floyd Towers East, Suite 1362, 205 Butler St., S.E., Atlanta, GA 30334.

Public Participation Opportunities

Our County Commissioners meet twice a month. Regularly scheduled meeting are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Additional information regarding these meetings can be obtained by calling 542-2115. Your participation is welcome at these meetings.

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.
- **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. Houston County 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: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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. Your water met all the regulations set by EPA. 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 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.

Terms and 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 detected 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.

2015 HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA WATER-QUALITY REPORT

ELKO WATER SYSTEM (PERMIT 1530003)

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0	0	0	Monthly	N	Naturally Present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3 (AL)	0	.031	0 - .33	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	2	.90	.65 - 1.28	Daily	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	0	0.0 - 0.0	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	0	0.0	6/15	N	Erosion of natural deposits

FEAGIN MILL WATER SYSTEM (PERMIT 1530021)

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0	1.43	N/A	Monthly	N	Naturally Present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	.19	N/D - .78	6/15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	2	.90	.16-1.53	Daily	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	0	0.0 - .25	6/15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	.45	N/D - 2.1	6/15	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (226/228)pci/L	0	5	2.28	N/D - 4.4	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits

HAYNESVILLE WATER SYSTEM (PERMIT 1530004)

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0	0	0	Monthly	N	Naturally Present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	.24	0 - .33	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	2	.87	.57-1.19	Daily	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	2.50	.0 - 9.60	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

HENDERSON WATER SYSTEM (PERMIT 1530005)

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	0	0	N/A	Monthly	N	Naturally Present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper (ppm)	1.3 (AL)	1.3	.77	0.0 - 1.5	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	2	.87	.6 - 1.2	Daily	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	2.5	0.0 - 2.5	8/13	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits