The Cobb County Water System (CCWS) is committed to delivering to you, our customer, water that meets or exceeds federal and state quality standards. We are pleased that this 2010 Water Quality Report shows we are doing that. Our priority is to deliver safe water to your home or business each day. We make significant efforts to protect our water resources for both existing needs and future generations.

The following pages provide the summary results of a continuous drinking water testing program. This report covers the calendar year 2009. Important definitions are provided to help clarify the information further. The CCWS’s Water Quality Report is also posted on our Internet website at www.cobbwater.org. For additional information contact our Customer Service Division at (770) 423-1000.

The bottom line is we provide safe, quality drinking water to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year because we know that it is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

Water Source

You are a customer of the CCWS, an agency of Cobb County Government. We distribute treated water to you and treat wastewater in a manner safe for your families and the environment.

The Water System purchases water from the Cobb County-Marietta Authority (CCMWA), a utility providing treated drinking water on a wholesale basis to other cities and counties in the region. CCMWA treats drinking water using state-of-the-art equipment and ensures water quality through continued monitoring and testing. Tap water is delivered to more than 175,000 customer accounts representing over 712,000 residents in the CCWS’s service area.

The CCMWA was created by the Georgia Legislature in 1951 for the purpose of providing potable water to Cobb County. The CCMWA has two surface water sources supplying two treatment facilities. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from the Chattahoochee River. After treatment at these plants, water is transported to various areas within the County where it is fed into CCWS’s distribution lines and finally to your home or business.

During 2002, the Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination of your drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

A Source Water Assessment is a study and report which provides the following information:

• Identifies the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water.
• Identifies potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies, and
• Provides an understanding of the drinking water supply’s susceptibility to contamination.

For more information on this project visit the Source Water Assessment website at www.atlantaregional.com/swap or request information by mail from the ARC:

Atlanta Regional Commission
40 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Attn: Matthew Harper, Environmental Planning Division

Why This Report?

Why Is The Water Treated?

The process begins by pumping untreated water from the Chattahoochee River or Lake Allatoona into sedimentation basins where large particles are removed and the water is disinfected.

The water is then directed to a process called flocculation which is a gentle mixing of the water with a coagulant. This allows particles, called floc, to form and settle, clarifying the water. Next the water is put through a filtration system where water flows through sand filters trapping even smaller particles.

After filtration, chemicals are added for final disinfection. Except for chlorine and fluoride, every chemical used in the treatment process is removed before the finished water is distributed to you.

Why Are There Contaminants?

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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

a) Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from wildlife, agricultural livestock operations, septic systems, and sewage treatment plants.
b) Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
d) Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic (man-made) and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
e) Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Annual Water Quality Report

(January to December 2009)
Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in one of our source waters. Testing, performed on the raw (untreated) water intake on the Chattahoochee River, located immediately north of the Johnson Ferry Road crossing, revealed the presence of Cryptosporidium. These organisms were detected in the water prior to treatment. During the same monitoring periods as at the Chattahoochee River, the water at Allatoona Lake was tested. No oocysts were detected. Testing conducted after treatment has not revealed cryptosporidium in the water from either facility. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Concerning Lead In Our Water

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 CCWS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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 two 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 water additive which promotes safe levels of lead in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfecting agent allowed in drinking water. Calculations verify evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

Definitions

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

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

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Treatment techniques that are believed to be effective for controlling drinking water contaminants are listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the usual sources of such contaminants, footnotes explaining our finding, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions below are important.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GaEPD) has determined that the concentrations of certain water quality monitoring parameters do not change frequently with our system; therefore, some of the data presented in this report are greater than one year old.