2010 Water Quality Report

Habersham County Public Utilities

The ***Habersham County Public Utilities Department*** is committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our community. We are happy to report that all State and Federal drinking water health standards were met during 2010. We obtained our water from the City of Toccoa.
Our Georgia I.D. number is CP1370020.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune 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)

Definitions:

Chloroform: Byproduct of water chlorination.

Bromodichloromethane: Byproduct of water chlorination.

Turbidity: Soil runoff and erosion.

Halo acetic Acid: Byproduct of water chlorination.

Tri-Halomethanes: Byproduct of water chlorination.

Total Coli form: Coli form bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Where does my water come from and why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 and bottled) 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: are as follows:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 runoff, industrial or domestic waste- water 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 by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can come from gas station, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and its production and mining activities.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water must provide the same protection for public health.

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. Habersham County Public Utilities 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 at http://www.epa.gov/safewter/lead.

Definitions:

PPB– Parts per billion-One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.
PPM– Parts per million-One part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in $10,000.

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.
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.
MRDL-Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level– The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.
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 use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
NTU-Nephelometric Turbidity Units is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness in the water.

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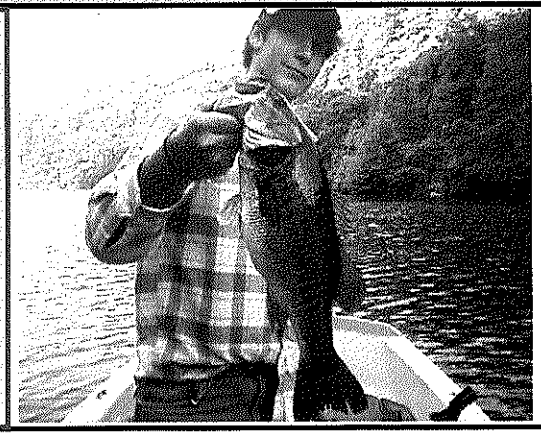
City of Toccoa Water Quality Report for 2010

Regulated Substances

Substance Tested and Detected	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Is it safe?	Probable Source
Copper	ppb	1300	1300*	91	YES	Corrosion of Household plumbing systems
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.77	YES	Additive that promotes strong teeth
Lead	ppb	0	15*	0	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Turbidity	NTU	N/A	TT=0.30 TT= percentage of sample<0.30	0.12 100%	YES	Soil runoff and erosion
Total Coliform (bacteria)	%	0	5%	0%	YES	Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present

***Copper and lead results were done in 9/2010**
***Action Level for Copper and Lead**
(Note: number of sites that exceed Action Level=0)
***"Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system."**
TT=Treatment Technique
***The University of Georgia completed a Source Water Assessment in October 2003. That report is available for review at Toccoa City Hall-Water/Wastewater Utility.**

Keep Water Safe and Clean!



Highest Rolling Annual Average and Rolling Yearly Range

Substance Tested and Detected	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Amt. Detected	Range of Detection	Is it safe?	Probable Source
Total Trihalolmethane	ppb	0	80	56	20-78	YES	By-Product of Water Chlorination