

## ***2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report City of Swainsboro***

### **Introduction**

Below you will find the City of Swainsboro's Annual Consumer Confidence Report, otherwise known as a Drinking Water Quality Report, for 2008. In 1996, an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act added a provision requiring that all community water systems deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report summarizing the quality of their drinking water supplies and what is being done to protect the water. This is our eleventh annual report and is intended to increase your awareness of drinking water issues and to help you make informed decisions about your drinking water. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact City Hall at 478.237.7025 or CH2M HILL OMI at 478.237.6738. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Charles Schwabe, Mayor

### **Your Water is Safe to Drink**

Last year we conducted more than 4,799 tests for more than 64 drinking water contaminants. This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided last year. Included are details about the source of your water, 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, call Orson P. Hall, CH2M HILL OMI Lead Operator, at 478.237.6738.

### **Special Population Advisory**

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 and 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 at 800.426.4791.

### **Drinking Water Sources**

Your water is groundwater which comes from the Barnwell and Clayburn Aquifers through the use of five (5) wells. These wells are capable of producing a combined total of 1.7 million gallons per day. Chlorine is added for disinfection and fluoride is added to help prevent dental decay. Source water assessment information may be obtained by contacting Randy Scarboro, CH2M HILL OMI project manager, at 478.237.6738.

### **Public Participation Opportunities**

The City of Swainsboro encourages its citizens to participate in its regularly scheduled City Council meetings to ask questions regarding drinking water or any other service. If interested, please call City Hall at 478.237.7025 for information on the next meeting.

### **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 at 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

### **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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide similar protection for public health.

### **Water Quality Data**

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2008 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 is the result of testing from January 1 through December 31, 2008. 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. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than a year old.

### **Lead-Specific Information**

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 City of Swainsboro 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Terms & 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.
- **MFL:** million fibers per liter
- **mrem/year:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **N/A:** not applicable
- **Nd:** not detectable at testing limit
- **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- **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)
- **ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- **ppq:** parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter
- **TT:** Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Substance	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5% positive	0	0	N/A	9/Monthly	<b>NO</b>	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	-----	-----	1.02	.83-1.31	Daily	<b>NO</b>	Bacterial Disinfection
Copper (ppb)	1300 (AL)	1300	270	0 – 270	2007	<b>NO</b>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.96	0.83 – 1.20	Daily	<b>NO</b>	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)	15 (AL)	0	5.4	0 – 5.5	2007	<b>NO</b>	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppb)	1000	1000	< 0.2	N/A	2008 6 WELLS	<b>NO</b>	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppb)	100	100	< 0.2	N/A	2008 6 WELLS	<b>NO</b>	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper testing was waived during 2008 and will resume in 2009.

CH2M HILL OMI prepared this water quality report as a service to the City of Swainsboro, Ga.

