SWAINSBORO, GA

2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Introduction

Below you will find a copy of the Annual Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Swainsboro for 2013. An amendment signed by President Clinton mandated that all water systems are required to provide their consumers with a CCR so they will have information concerning the quality of their drinking water supplies and what is being done to protect them. This is the fourteenth of such annual reports. This report 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, whose number is listed below. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,

Charles Schwabe, Mayor

Your Water is Safe to Drink

Last year we conducted more than 5421tests for over 174 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 Johnny Mills, CH2M HILL Water 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/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 is groundwater and comes from the Barnwell and Clayburn Aquifers through the use of six (6) wells. These wells are capable of producing a combined total of 8,287,200 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 Johnny Mills 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 the drinking water or any other service. If interested, please call City Hall for information on the meeting dates.

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 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 the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2013 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 from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2013. 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 one 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.

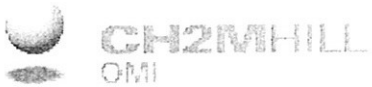
When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

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.
- MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG : Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - 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 the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A: not applicable
- ND: not detectable 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

Substance	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples/month)	1	0	0	N/A	2013 9/Monthly	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Lead and Copper							
Copper (ppm) action level at consumer taps	1.3 (AL)	1.3	0.13	ND – 0.36	2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits: Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) action level at consumer taps	15 (AL)	0	4.8	ND – 9.7	2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.18	0.11 – 0.18	2012	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes: discharge from metal refineries: erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.91	0.71 – 1.08	2013 Daily	NO	Erosion of natural deposits: water additive which promotes strong teeth: Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Disinfectants							
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)							
Substance	**MRDL**	**MRDL G**	**Our Water**	**Range of Detection**	**Sample Date**	**Violation (Y or N)**	**Typical Source of Contamination**
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.96	0.87-1.06	2013 Daily	NO	Bacterial Disinfection

Substance	MCL in mg/L	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Undetected Contaminants The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.							
Nitrate (ppm) [measured as Nitrogen]	10	10	ND	N/A	2013 6 Wells	NO	Runoff from: fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks. sewage: Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm) [measured as Nitrogen]	1	1	ND	N/A	2013 6 Wells	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks. sewage: Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	60	NA	ND	NA	2013	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	NA	ND	NA	2013	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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