

2009
Annual Water
Quality Report

**City
of
Lawrenceville**

PWSID# 1350005

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The United States enjoys one of the best supplies of drinking water in the world. Nevertheless, many of us who once gave little or no thought to the water that comes from our taps are now asking questions: How safe is my drinking water? Where does my drinking water come from, and how is it treated? What can I do to help protect my drinking water?

In 1974 Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply and protecting sources of drinking water. SDWA is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its state partners. Since 1999, water suppliers have been required to provide annual Consumer Confidence Reports to their customers. This report provides the answers to these and other frequently asked questions.

The City of Lawrenceville has been providing safe and clean water to the community since 1912, helping to keep you and your family healthy. We take this mission very seriously. As shown in this annual report covering the year 2009, the water we delivered surpassed the strict regulations of the State of Georgia and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2009 our water department distributed 840,279,806 gallons of water to our customers. The City of Lawrenceville purchased approximately 762,592,196 gallons of water (90%) of its daily water demand from Gwinnett County, which utilizes Lake Lanier as its raw water source. The remaining 77,687,610 gallons of water (10%) was pumped from two wells. Well #2 is located in Rhodes Jordan Park and well #7 is located on Winer Industrial Way. The city's wells is located in what is commonly referred to as the Piedmont Aquifer. Because the city's water supply is comprised of a mixture of surface water and groundwater, the Environmental Protection Division considers our distribution system to be "blended".

The City of Lawrenceville's Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) was completed on June 22, 1999. The City well is in a high risk situation due to the extremely high number of potential pollution sources in the wellhead protection area. The City has in place a wellhead protection plan and works hard to insure it is enforced. However, there are potential pollution sources in the three zones described in the wellhead protection plan developed by the Environmental Protection Division. The three zones are Control Zone, Inner Management Zone and Outer Management Zone. The potential pollution sources in these three areas include vehicle parking, monitoring wells, water treatment facility, utilities, major highway, railroad, reservoir, underground storage tanks, auto repair shops, body shops, refinishers, machine shops, aboveground storage tanks, industrial facilities, tires, printers, cemetery, pesticide storage, fleet service facility, fertilizer storage, recycling facility, car wash and abandoned drums.

Gwinnett County is working with the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center and other water utilities using Lake Lanier as their water source to complete this plan. If you have any questions about the Gwinnett County SWAP, you may call 678-376-6700.

The cost of drinking water is rising as we meet the needs of aging infrastructure, comply with public health standards, and expand service areas. These increasing costs may cause us to raise our rates. However, despite rate increases, water is still a bargain.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robert Paul at 770-277-7597 or by writing to the following address: 70 South Clayton Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You are encouraged to attend regular public meetings on the first Monday of each month, at 7 PM, at City Hall, at 70 S. Clayton Street, in the auditorium. Find out more on the Internet at www.epa.gov/gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm or www.lawrencevillega.org. Any further questions can be forwarded to 770-822-5741.

In order 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

2009 Monitoring Results for Contaminants in Drinking Water

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/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 (1-800-426-4791).

All testing results are from the monitoring year 2009

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA's Limits	Level & Range Detected		Potential Source of Contamination
				Lawrenceville	Gwinnett	
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria ²	Positive / Negative	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in < 5% of monthly samples	4% of monthly sample pos (highest)	1.66% of monthly sample pos. (highest)	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity ¹	NTU	NA	TT	NA	0.170 (highest)	Soil Runoff.
					Lowest % of samples meeting limits - 100%	
Inorganic Contaminants						
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.75	0.74	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
					0.56-1.10	
Nitrate/Nitrite	ppm	10	10	ND	0.22	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
					< 0.02-0.22	
Disinfection By-products						
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	NA	60	14.9	14.6 (average)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
				0.26	5.2-25.9	
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	41.3 (average)	20.8 (average)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
				14.3-72.9	7.9-43.0	
Bromate	ppm	0	0.01	<0.005 (average)	<0.005 (average)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Lead and Copper testing is completed by Lawrenceville Water from samples taken from customers' taps.						
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.240	0.108	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
						Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservative.
Lead ⁴	ppb	0	15 = AL	2.5	<1.14	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
				3 of 30 sites above AL		

Non-Regulated Substances: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. All results are from the 2009 monitoring year.			
Substance	Unit	Level & Range Detected	
		Lawrenceville	Gwinnett
Methyl Tert Butyl Ether (MTBE)	ppb	4.6 (average) 2.9-6.3 (range)	ND

Notes:

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

²Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

³Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.

⁴Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning disabilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

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 a margin of safety.

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

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

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity. pCi/L (or picocuries per liter): a measure of radioactivity.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l). **PPM:** (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l).

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, 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 in source water 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 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 also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

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 Lawrenceville Water Department 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/safewater/lead>.