

Houston County, Georgia – 2021 Annual Water Quality Report

Feagin Mill 1530021, Elko 1530003, Hayneville 1530004, Henderson 1530005

Is my water safe? We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions? 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from? **The Cretaceous Sand Aquifer** supplies Groundwater to all Houston County Systems. The largest system, in and around the city of Warner Robins, GA, is **The Feagin Mill System** (1530021). It has fifteen deep wells and 11 Water Treatment Plants (WTP's). **The Elko System** (1530003) is now being served exclusively by **The Haynesville System** (1530004) which has two wells and WTP's. **The Henderson Water System** (1530005) is also served by two wells and WTP's.

Source water assessment and its availability
Water sources are inspected on a schedule determined by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). To obtain information concerning the latest report available, contact John Bell, M-F 9:00 - 5:00, at the Houston County Lakeview Water Treatment Facility, located at 1601 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088, (478) 953-1110.

Why are 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved? The Houston County Commissioners meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Additional information regarding these meetings can be obtained by calling (478) 542-2115. Your participation is welcome.

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Additional Information for Lead

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. Houston County is responsible for providing high quality drinking water for all water customers 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water

systems. The table on the next page lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

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WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L (or ppb)	ug/L : micrograms per liter, or ppb: parts per billion
mg/L (or ppm)	mg/L: milligrams per liter, or ppm: parts per million
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.
Positive Samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year

ACRONYMS

MCLG	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	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.		
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.		
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.		
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.		
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.		
MRDL	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.		
RTCR	RTCR: Revised Total Coliform Room		
MNR	RTOR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated	RTOR: Routine Original
MPL	RAA	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level	RAA: Running Annual Average
TC	EC	TC: Total Coliform	EC: E. coli.

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2021 FM CCR – The Feagin Mill Water System 1530021

Contaminant (or Facility Site ID)	MCLG or MRDLG	Maximum Contaminant Level, Treatment Technique or Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (mg/L)	MRDLG 4 ppm	4 mg/L	1.01	.41	1.50	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.83 AVG	.10	1.38	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [Meas. as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.68	0	3.1	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper-Action level at consumer taps ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90 th % .11 ppm	.0023 ppm	.24 ppm	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform	0	1. Routine and repeat samples are TC +, and 2. either is EC +, or 3. system fails to take repeat samples following EC + routine sample, or 4. system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.	1.2	0	NA	2021	No	Naturally Present in the Environment
E. coli (RTCR) in the distribution system.	0		0	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants								
Combined Radium	0	5 pCi/L	2	0	6.63	2021	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha	0	15 pCi/L	4	0	8.35	2021	2021	Erosion of Natural Deposits

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2021 EK CCR – The Elko Water System 1530003

(See Hayneville System CCR for data after February 2021)

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL TT or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants								
Chlorine (mg/L)	MRDLG 4 ppm	4 mg/L	.99 Avg.	.79	1.28	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total HAA5 (ug/L)	No Goal	60 ug/L	1.1	1.1	1.1	2018	No	Organic and Chlorine Combinations
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No Goal	80	4.1	4.1	4.1	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.79 Avg.	.66	.89	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [Meas. as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2	1.5	1.5	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper -Action level at consumer taps ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90 th % .1205	.022	.18	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Microbiological Contaminants								
E. coli (RTCR) & Total Coliform (RTOR) in the distribution sys.	0	0	0	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

A violation is triggered if routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive, **and** either is E. coli – positive, **or** if the system fails to take repeat samples following an E. coli positive routine sample **or** if the system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.

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2021 HA CCR – The Hayneville Water System 1530004

This System is the Elko, Ga. Source as of March 2021.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL TT or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants								
Chlorine (mg/L)	MRDLG 4 ppm	4 mg/L	1.08 Avg.	.71	1.39	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total HAA5 (ug/L)	No Goal	60 ug/L	9.8	2.6	7.2	2020	No	Organic and Chlorine Combinations
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No Goal	80 ug/L	12.5 ug/L	2.3	6.9	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.82 Avg.	.35	1.13	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper -Action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90 th % .23	.01	.68	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	15 ppb	15 ppb	90 th % 1.9	0	2.6	2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
E. coli (RTCR) & Total Coliform (RTOR) in the distribution sys.	0	0	0	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<i>A violation is triggered if routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive, and either is E. coli - positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli.</i>								

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2021 HE CCR - The Henderson Water System 1530005

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	.96 Avg.	.50	1.28	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total HAA5 (HAA5) (ppb)	No Goal for the total	60	ND	NA	NA	2020	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No goal for the total	80	ND	NA	NA	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4.0	.82 Avg.	.53	1.11	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	90 th % .28	.016	.42	2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15ppb	90 th % 2.2	0	9.4	2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
E. coli (RTCR) & Total Coliform (RTOR) in the distribution sys.	0	0	0	NA	NA	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

A violation is triggered if routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive, and either is E.-coli positive; or If repeat samples are not analyzed following an E. coli positive routine sample; or If a total coliform positive repeat sample is not analyzed for E. coli.

For more information, please contact John Bell or Jeff Chandler.

1601 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088, 478-956-1110