

# 2011 Annual Water Quality Report



Fulton County Department of Public Works is proud to share the annual monitoring results for our drinking water system. This federally required report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), covers all testing completed from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. We are especially happy to be able to report that the quality of our water is excellent, having met or exceeded the standards and requirements set by the EPA. Our dedicated teams of professionals work diligently every day to manage this resource so the rest of us can turn on a faucet or flush the toilet.

This Water Quality Report is about how your water choices can impact the supply and the environment. It's about how we're protecting your water supply for quality and security. It's also about how we can partner to make sure we have the water we need today and tomorrow. So please take a moment to read this report and learn about your water system and some of what goes into delivering water to your tap. And learn why we believe, "from river to faucet", Fulton County delivers some of the best water in the state.

### EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Water Plant

Substance(units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.87	0.83 - 0.87	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate (ppm) (measured as Nitrate-Nitrite)	10	10	0.42	N/A	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Substance(units)	EPA Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Treatment Technique (TT)	Amount detected	Range detected (lowest to highest amount)	Does water meet EPA Standard?	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ratio)	TT	TT = 1	1.00	1.00 - 1.00	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	TT = 1	0.14	N/A	Yes	Soil runoff
	N/A	TT = % samples less than 0.3 NTU	100% (lowest monthly percentage)	N/A	Yes	Soil runoff

### EPA Regulated Substances or Contaminants Monitored in the Distribution System

Substance(units)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)	Highest amount detected	Range Detected (lowest to highest)	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.51	0.27 - 1.51	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Substance(units)	Action Level (AL) or MCL (90% of the samples collected must be at or below the AL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	90th percentile (90% of samples taken were below this amount)	# of samples above action level (AL) (No more than 5 samples above AL allowed)	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Copper (ppb) (collected in November 2009)	1300	1300	93	0 out 50 samples taken	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits;
Lead (ppb) (collected in November 2009)	15	0	2.5	0 out 50 samples taken	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Substance(units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Conaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Number of Positive samples Reported	% Positive Samples in the Total Number of Samples Collected	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Total Coliform (% positive samples in total # of samples collected per month)	5% of monthly samples are positive	0	2	1.66	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli bacteria (# of positive samples)	0	0	0	N/A	Yes	Human or animal fecal waste
Substance(units)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level detected (average)	Range detected (lowest to highest)#	Does water meet EPA standard?	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acid HAA5 (ppb)	60	N/A	25.2	12.2 - 39.0	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Trihalomethane TTHM (ppb)	80	N/A	39.4	25.8 - 77.0	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Under the Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR) for TTHM and HAA5, systems must report the average and range of sample results. Since our system collected samples under IDSE (Initial Distribution System Evaluation) during the 2009 calendar year, the results of the IDSE are included in the range of results but not the average.

Waivers (exemptions) were extended to the County by the State in 2007 through 2010 for the following contaminants: Arsenic, Asbestos, Cyanide, Radium and Synthetic Organic Compounds. Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) are man made products such as pesticides, gasoline components, PCB (polychlorinated bi-phenyls; formerly used in rubber, dyes, heaters, etc), phenols, and dioxin.



## WHAT'S IN OUR WATER?

Included in this report are tables depicting contaminants that have been detected in our water. They are, in all cases, below the levels prescribed by the EPA but, nevertheless, are present. They pose no known health risk at these levels. We have listed a few definitions to help you understand the information in the tables.

**90th Percentile:** Calculation that determines compliance with the regulation for copper and lead. If this number is less than the action level then the system is compliant.

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

**Exemptions:** A State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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 the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit):** The unit used to express a measurement of turbidity.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion is the same as one penny in 10 million dollars.

**Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million is the same as one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

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

**Turbidity:** Measurement of the cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of disinfectants.



## Important Health Information

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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



## Lead in Drinking Water

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. AFCWRC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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>.



## Partners in Education

The Fulton County Public Works Education and Outreach group offers a variety of exciting environmental education programs, resources, and workshops to our residents. Most are available free of charge and can be tailored to meet the needs of your group based on age and interests of the participants.

Our educators provide programs for:

- School groups/after school programs
- Summer camps and scout programs
- Teacher Workshops
- Homeowners' associations
- Civic groups
- Community events

Program topics are divided into three main focus areas:

### Water Conservation

- Indoor and outdoor water conservation education
- How to build and install rain gardens and rain barrels
- Toilet Rebate Program

### Water Quality

- Adopt-A-Stream volunteer water quality monitoring
- Storm Drain Marking and Adopt-A-Drain supplies
- Supporting stream cleanups with supplies
- Watershed education

### Pollution Prevention

- Proper use and disposal tips for household hazardous waste
- Raising awareness about residential fats, oils, and grease (FOG)
- Recycling education

To learn more about these programs, visit our website at [www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home](http://www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home) or call (404) 612-7400.



## Are Contaminants A Health Risk?

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 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;
- 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.

## You're Invited

Fulton County Public Works wants to keep the public informed about their drinking water. We believe that informed customers are our best allies, and we are dedicated to giving you the information you need to make knowledgeable decisions. You can participate through public hearings associated with environmental permitting and reviews of new facilities. Notice of upcoming meetings is posted at the Government Center, located at 141 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, and on our website at [www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home](http://www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home) under "Notices".

## Excelling in Water

The Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission (AFCWRC) Water Treatment Facility, jointly-owned by Fulton County and the City of Atlanta and operated by joint venture partner, Veolia Water/Khafra, has earned several awards in 2010, including:



- American Water Works Association (AWWA)'s Director Award in recognition of our commitment to providing the highest quality of drinking water. One of only three Water Treatment Plants in Georgia to earn this honor.
- American Water Works Association (AWWA)'s Partnership for Safe Drinking Water Award.
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Platinum Award, in recognition of complete and consistent compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- National Safety Council Occupation Excellence Achievement Award.
- Georgia Department of Labor Award of Excellence in recognition of exceptional workplace safety.

## Let it Rain

Let it rain, let it rain at The Cedar Grove Community House! The community house underwent a "green" transformation this past winter with the help of The Fulton County Department of Public Works and The Fulton County Department of Parks and Recreation. In the fall of 2010 the small, but widely used Cedar Grove Community House was updated with a new roof and gutter system, a water wise landscape, and a retrofitted rain collection system. With water usage increasing in the summer months, Fulton County wanted to make sure that this landscape was sustainable. A rainfall event of just 1" will yield over 640 gallons of water from the 1000 sq. ft. roof. The rain collection system consists of two 1000 gallon tanks that will house collected rain water, which will be used with drip irrigation when needed. Of the two cisterns one is buried and the other is above ground for demonstration and educational purposes. With water conservation on the mind of all Georgians this is one way to show our citizens how to have a beautiful, sustainable and water wise landscape! For more information on water conservation please visit our website at [www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home](http://www.fultoncountyyga.gov/publicworks-home) or call (404) 612-7400.





## Source Water Assessment Program

The source of drinking water for the North Fulton Water System is the Chattahoochee River which is closely monitored by the State of Georgia, Fulton County and several environmental groups. This surface water supply is processed at the AFCWRC water treatment plant located in Alpharetta.

The Fulton County Department of Public Works received a source water assessment study and report for the AFCWRC water treatment plant which supplies drinking water to the majority of north Fulton County. This assessment reviewed the adjacent land uses that may pose a potential risk to the Chattahoochee River, which included, but are not limited to, gas stations, landfills, junk yards, agricultural fields, wastewater treatment plants, and mining activities. The assessment has ranked the Chattahoochee River watershed to have a medium risk of potential pollutant loads. This information can help communities to understand the potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting the Chattahoochee River. The complete report is available for review on our website at [www.fultoncountyga.gov/](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/).



## Need More Information?

Water quality and safety are increasingly complex and the information in this brief summary may not answer all of your questions. For additional information, questions, or concerns please contact Corlette Banks at (404) 612-8097. An online version of this report is available at [www.fultoncountyga.gov/](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/).

Fulton County Public Works Department  
141 Pryor St, Suite 6001  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/>

Important information about your drinking water.  
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante  
sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable  
con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## Fulton County Board of Commissioners

John H. Eaves	Chairman, District 1, At-Large
Emma I. Darnell	Vice-Chair, District 5
Robb Pitts	Commissioner, District 2, At-Large
Liz Hausmann	Commissioner, District 3
Tom Lowe	Commissioner, District 4
Joan P. Garner	Commissioner, District 6
William "Bill" Edwards	Commissioner, District 7
Zachary L. Williams	County Manager

**Water testing performed :**  
**January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010**

**WSID GA 1210005**



## Who To Call

We need your help! See a broken water main or sewer line? Report it!  
Sewer Customer Service and after hours emergency:  
(404) 612-3061  
Drinking Water Customer Service and after hours  
emergency: (770) 640-3040

