

CITY OF CANTON
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT
2011

The City of Canton owns the Bobby E. Bishop Water Treatment facility located at 150 Bobby E. Bishop Dr., Canton GA 30114. In an effort to keep our citizens up to date on the condition of our drinking water, we have compiled this report as a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to EPA and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) includes 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.

Your water is taken directly from the Etowah River and is treated and filtered to remove several contaminants, plus the water is chlorinated to disinfect against viruses and pathogens (harmful bacteria). Fluoride is added to enhance dental protection. The levels of these two additives are monitored daily to ensure proper dosages are being added. Canton also purchases water from the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority and the City of Waleska in amounts less than 20% of the total water sold. The Authority's and Waleska's source for water is also the Etowah River.

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)**.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and pathogens (harmful 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 and farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural and residential uses.
- *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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

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 provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbes are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA regulations. FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2011 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 performed January 1 – December 31, 2011.

Substance Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level	MCLG	Level Detected in Canton's Water	Range	Violation?	Likely Source(s)
Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 5NTU TT=95% of samples <0.5 NTU	0.50	.28 NTU Maximum 99.9% of samples < 0.5 NTU	N/A	NO	Soil Runoff

Substance Detected	Maximum Contaminant Level	MCLG	Level Detected in Canton's Water	Range	Violation?	Likely Source(s)
Copper (ppm) 1	AL = 1.3	1.30	4.3	N/A	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4.00	0.91	.70-1.2	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	AL = 15	15.00	0.4	N/A	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10.00	0.26	N/A	NO	Runoff from Fertilizer: leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	24.3	20-80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfections
Total (ppb) Trihalomethanes (THMs)	80	N/A	28.7	20-60	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfections

(1) No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL)

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality.

TT= Treatment Technique = a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU= Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

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

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.

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.

PPM: Parts per Million (or milligrams per liter which corresponds to one penny in \$100,000)

PPB: Parts per Billion (or micrograms per liter which corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000)

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Always flush your tap for 30 seconds before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The City of Canton Water & Sewer Committee normally meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:15pm in the conference room at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Please call the City Clerk, Susan Stanton, at (770) 704-1500 for meeting schedules. For more information about your water, please call Jason Clark at (770-479-2392).