



City of Canton

Annual Water Quality Report

January 2012 – December 2012

Why This Report

The City of Canton is committed to providing our customers with safe, dependable drinking water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year that meets or exceeds federal and state quality standards. This 2012 Water Quality Report provides you with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality testing during the previous year. We are proud to provide the enclosed information and show you how we have surpassed water quality standards. We know that safe, good drinking water is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

For additional information contact our Water Department at (770) 704-1500 or Jason Clark at (770) 479-2392.

This Water Quality Report is also posted on the City's website www.canton-georgia.com

Where Does My Water Come From

Sources of drinking water (both tap 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.

The City of Canton is supplied by surface water from the Etowah River and is treated at the Bobby E. Bishop Water Treatment facility located at 150 Bobby E. Bishop Drive, Canton GA 30114. The water 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 & Sewer Authority and the City of Waleska in amounts less the 20% of the total water sold. The source water for the Authority's and the City of Waleska is also the Etowah River.

Why Are There Contaminants

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 at (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.

Notice to People With Health Concerns

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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Concerns With Lead In Our Water

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

How to Read This Report

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses and lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during Calendar Year 2012. This table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

- **Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality. Turbidity is measured in NTU's (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **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)
- **PPB:** Parts per Billion (or micrograms per liter)

Contaminant	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Violation	Likely Source(s)
Turbidity	NTU	TT = 5 ^(a)	0.50	0.26 (Max) ^(b)	N/A	NO	Soil Runoff
Copper ^(c)	ppm	AL = 1.3	1.30	0.43	N/A	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing
Fluoride	ppm	4	4.00	0.86	0.70 - 1.2	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead	ppm	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	21.3	20 – 80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfections
Total THMs (Trihalomethanes)	ppb	80	N/A	31.4	20 – 60	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfections

- (a) TT = 95% of samples < 0.5 NTU
- (b) 99.9% of samples < 0.5 NTU
- (c) No sites exceeded the Action Level (AL)