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2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Gautier

May 2015

Is my water safe? *Absolutely!*

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?

WELL LOCATION	AQUIFER
Martin Bluff on Lark Street	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
Westgate Parkway in Westgate Estates	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
Martin Bluff (West) on Lark Street	Upper Pascagoula Formation
Behind Singing River Mall (North of Hwy 90)	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
Public Works Office	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
Honduras Drive and Merida Road - Point Clear	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
½ Mile West of Mall (South of Hwy. 90)	Lower Graham Ferry Formation
MS 57 (Robinson Still Road)	Upper Pascagoula Formation

Source water assessment and its availability

The City of Gautier is dedicated to protecting your water supply. To insure our water supply is not contaminated from commercial or residential customers, we install backflow prevention devices at strategic locations.

Why are there 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 Gautier City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3330 Highway 90. Any questions or comments can be addressed at their meeting. We encourage your participation.

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. The City of Gautier 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 choose 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 below 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.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL,TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes , ppb)	NA	80	43.73	3.81	43.73	2014	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5, ppb)	NA	60	32.00	10.00	32.00	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (as CL2, ppm)	4	4	0.3	0.20	0.60	2014	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Radioactive Contaminants								
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	0.085	ND	0.085	2011	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.5	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	4	2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppm)	0.2	0.2	< 0.015	2014	0	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0095	0.004	0.0095	2012	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	<0.08	ND	ND	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	<0.02	ND	ND	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	10	10	<0.10	ND	ND	2014	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.1	0.0037	0.0018	0.0037	2012	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits

Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.741	0.425	0.741	2012	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ug/L	ug/L: Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
Ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended

Important Drinking Water Definitions

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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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 disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to healt. MRDLG's 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
MNR	MNR: Monitored not regulated
MPL	MPL: State assigned maximum permission level

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