

Franklin County Water System

Water Quality Report 2022

WSID # 1190051

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Water Superintendent, Bob White at 706-384-3318. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings which are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Franklin County Justice Center.

OUR WATER SOURCE

Your water sources are drilled wells, located at 156 Thompson Road, Carnesville, 5665 Stone Bridge Road, Carnesville, and 275 Isbell Road, Carnesville. In addition to this source, we have an interconnection with Banks County and the cities of Toccoa, Lavonia, and Royston. We perform treatment to each of these sources to include removal of contaminants and chlorine disinfection. We produced 459,844,600 gallons of safe drinking water and purchased 332,023,393 gallons of water from the City of Toccoa, City of Lavonia, and the Banks County Water System.

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and 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, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water 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 which 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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS:

In the table listed below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following explanations:

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

Treatment Technique (TT) – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

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.”

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following table includes all contaminants that were detected in our drinking water during the 2022 calendar year.

Microbiological Monitoring Results					
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Franklin Co Water System	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5%	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Detected Chemicals						
1. Fluoride	No	0.57	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
4. Nitrate	No	0.27	Mgl	0	10	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	No	0	ppb	0	30	Naturally Present in Bedrock
Gross Alpha	Yes	34.3	PCI/L	0	15.0	Naturally Present in Bedrock

Parameter (Units)	MRDL	MRDLG	Results	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	4	4	1.66	No	Water Additive to control microbes

****As you can see by the table, our system was over the MCL for Gross Alpha. Franklin County Water System was issued a notice of violation for exceeding this limit by Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Gross Alpha is found in wells finished into granite bedrock of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont Aquifer System which encompasses most of north Georgia. The EPD states " this is not an immediate risk".**

Please call our office Monday thru Friday (8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) at 706-384-3318 if you have questions or comments concerning this report.