ELLIJAY-GILMER COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report includes data collected between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

As residents of Gilmer County, we are surrounded by the beautiful environment. We should all constantly remind each other of the importance of protecting it. One of our most important natural resources is water. The water that we provide for our customers is taken from the Cartecay River and Ellijay River. The water is treated at the Cartecay Water Treatment Plant at 364 Victory Circle. .We are extremely fortunate to have such clean water sources and the ability of a trained staff of operators to make the water even cleaner. Any of our assessments reports are available to the public at any time. Our Georgia Water System I.D. Number is 1230000. If you have any questions about the water you drink, call us at 706-276-2202. *Una versión española de este documento está disponible a petición.*

WATER QUALITY

The Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewerage Authority (EGCWSA) is pleased to report that your drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and EPA during the previous year. This 2024 Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality testing during the calendar year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis. We are proud to provide the enclosed Water Quality Data Information.

The quality of the water delivered to your house or business is our number one concern. We are proud to report that there have been no violations for compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Standards. Included is a chart that defines the substances tested, the Maximum Contamination Level or MCL, which is the maximum allowable limit defined in the Safe Drinking Water Rules, the actual system results for EGCWSA, the Range of Detection, which is the range in which the test will detect an amount of the substance and a listing of any violations.

THE COOSA BASIN

The Coosa Basin is the watershed or drainage area that feeds water to our local rivers. It is important that we all understand that the activities on our land affects the quality of the water we drink. The more contamination we put on the land the more substances we will have to monitor for and remove in order to keep water safe to drink and affordable to purchase. Protecting our land resources will help protect our water. It is our Life Line, so let's cherish it and protect it always. Water source information may be found on the Internet. One of the most informative sites is the USEPA Water Shed Site at www.epawatershed.com. This and many other sites give us information on the quality of the water in our basin.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population is. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV or AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and some infants, who can be particularly at risk from infections, should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants and more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Definitions and Abbreviations:

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

EPA—Environmental Protection Agency, Federal agency.

EPD—Environmental Protection Division, State agency.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. The 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.

ND—Nondetect: Contaminant was not detected in the particular sample analyzed.

NTU—Nephelometric Turbidity Units, a measure of turbidity or cloudiness of water.

PPB—Parts Per Billion (same as micrograms per liter). One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in $10 million.

PPM—Parts Per Million (same as milligrams per liter). One part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in $10,000.

THHA—Total Haloacetic Acids, a by-product of disinfection by chlorination.

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

TTHM—Total Trihalomethanes, a by-product of disinfection by chlorination.

Waiver—State permission not to monitor for a particular parameter for a specified period.

* 2024 ✚ results. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) only requires Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority to monitor lead and copper levels every three years due to the low levels detected in previous years.

**The higher the percentage, the better the water quality.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS • Calendar Year 2024

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (units)	MCLG (Ideal Level)	MCL (Highest Allowed)	ANNUAL AVERAGE	RANGE OF LEVELS DETECTED	DOES IT MEET STANDARD?	PROBABLE SOURCES
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	presence of bacteria in < 5% of monthly samples	0%	0%	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride (ppm)	< 2	4	.78 ppm	.77 - .80	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Nitrate/Nitrite	10	10	.35 ppm	N/D - .35	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	N/A	TT	.52 ppm	N/D - .80	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine (ppm)	2	4	1.0 ppm	1.0 -1.0	Yes	Added to water as a disinfectant
Turbidity	0	TT	.04 ntu	.02 - 0.26	Yes	Soil runoff and erosion
		% of samples < 0.3 NTU	100 %	N/A	Yes	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	80	80	25.0 ppb	16.4 - 33.7	Yes	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (THAAs) (ppb)	60	60	20.10 ppb	11.7 - 30.0	Yes	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	N/A	N/A	3.6	N/D - 3.6	Yes	By - Product of Chlotination
Sodium (ppb)	N/A	N/A	0.0	0 - 3200	Yes	Naturally in The Enviroment

LEAD AND COPPER

LEAD AND COPPER AT TAP	MCLG (Ideal Level)	MCL (Highest Allowed)	90th PERCENTILE OF RESULTS	# SITES ABOVE THE AL	DOES IT MEET STANDARD?	PROBABLE SOURCES
Lead (ppb)*	0	AL = 15	2.0	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)*	0	AL = 1300	22.0	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

REQUIRED LEAD INFORMATION: 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. Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority 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 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 http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

2024 CCR SUPPLEMENTAL LEAD & COPPER CCR INFORMATION

Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority
GA 1230000

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially those that are pregnant, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and interior home plumbing. The Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority (Authority) is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing of your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when you tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the Authority at (706) 276-2202. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

LEAD & COPPER RANGE DATA

Analyte	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Low	High	Units	Violation
Lead	2022	0	15	1.7	44	ppb (µg/L)	No
Copper	2022	1.3	1.3	0.004	0.059	ppm	No

To access all individual Lead Tap Sample results for the Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority, System GA 1230000, go to https://ga-epd-120water-ptd.com.

Georgia Lead Service Line Inventory

The Georgia Service Line Inventory is a statewide initiative mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR); the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) oversees this program. This program requires all public water systems in the State of Georgia to develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of water service lines, identifying materials such as lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), non-lead, and unknown. Both utility-owned and customer-owned portions of the service line must be included. The initial inventory submission was set for October 16, 2024. The Ellijay-Gilmer County Water & Sewerage Authority (Authority) submitted the Service Line Inventory prior to the deadline. To access the Authority's Service Line Inventory, go to https://ga-epd-120water-ptd.com.