

COOSA WATER AUTHORITY
WATER QUALITY REPORT
2023

P.O. Box 804
Blairsville, GA 30514

Water System ID: 2910006

The Board of Directors, management, and staff of Coosa Water Authority (Authority) are pleased to have the opportunity to provide our customers with a report on the quality of our water and information about our system. Since its creation in 1972, Coosa Water Authority has worked hard to provide its customers with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. This report contains information about where your water comes from, the parameters of detected contaminants, and how the system's water compares to those parameters as set by regulatory agencies. The contaminants that were detected in our water are listed in this report.

Effective September 19, 1998 all Community Water Systems are required to provide an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. This report contains information that will enable the consumer to make educated health related decisions concerning the consumption of their drinking water.

At the present time, the water system has over 180 miles of main distribution lines. There are 4 storage tanks which have a 420,000-gallon capacity. There are 5 wells drawing groundwater from unconfined crystalline rock aquifers, with a pumping capacity of 630,000 gallons per day. The Authority presently provides water for 1830 meters for commercial and residential use. Our Source Water Assessment is complete, identifying potential pollution sources which may pose a risk to water sources. A copy of the Assessment can be obtained at our office. For more information about the system or this report please contact Tina Chastain at (706) 745-6773. The board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. Please call our office for the time and location.

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 **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

The 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 human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- * **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, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. According to the results of all laboratory tests performed according to regulations established by the EPA and EPD, Coosa Water Authority has no violations.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzuca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The attached table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during 2023. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data contained in the table is from testing done January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted. EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

The Authority has been issued a waiver certificate which exempts the system from monitoring 32 regulated synthetic organic compounds (SOCs) listed in the Georgia Rule for Safe Drinking Water.

The Authority was also issued a cyanide monitoring waiver by EPD because EPD studies show that the distributed water in the service area is not vulnerable to cyanide contamination.

Terms and Abbreviations:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): "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."

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): "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."

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

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."

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

Variations and Exemptions: "State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions."

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

n/a: not applicable

nd: not detectable at testing limits

mg/l : number of milligrams per liter of water

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter

ug/l: number of micrograms per liter of water

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter

pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

<: less than

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL/ [SMCL]	Units	Detected (Max)	Range	Date	Violations	Typical source of contamination
Fluoride	4[2]	mg/l	0.8	0.26-1.3	2023	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids	3.5 - 6.5	ug/l	5.15	3.5 - 6.5	2023	No	By-product of disinfection
Decafluorobiphenyl SS	8.0 - 12.0	ug/l	3.64	<4	2023	No	By-product of disinfection
Chlorine residual	4mrdl	mg/l	1	0.7-1.2	2023	No	Water disinfectant

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (IOC)

Contaminant	MCL/ [SMCL]	Units	Detected (Max)	Range	Date	Violations	Typical source of contamination
Nitrate/Nitrite	10	mg/l	1	1.1-1.1	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb) / IOC		ug/l	7.3	up to 59 ug/l	2023	No	Corison of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits 1 of 20 samples had access of 1500.
Copper (ppm) / IOC		ug/l	520	up to 1500 ug/l	2023	No	Corison of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits 1 of 20 samples had access of 1300.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL/ SMCL	Units	System Results	Range	Date	Violations	Typical source of contamination
Gross Alpha	15	pCi/L	15.9	0-15.9	11/8/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	30	ug/l	22.648	22.648-22.648	11/8/2022	No	Erosion of natural deposits

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCL	Units	Detected (Max)	Range	Date	Violations	Typical source of contamination
None detected							

VIOLATIONS TABLE

E.coli			
Fecal coliforms and E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these waste can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a risk for infants, young children, and people with compromised immune systems.			
Violation type	Violation begin	Violation ended	Violation Explanation
Monitored GWR triggered additional, major	12/17/2020	2023	Failed to collect followup samples within 24 hrs of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These need to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause "blue baby syndrome". Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Lead and Copper: Lead and copper may be found in household plumbing fixtures such as service lines, pipes, solders and fluxes, and brass and bronze fixtures. Lead is found throughout the environment in the air, soil, water, and household dust, and in consumer products such as food, lead-based paint, pottery porcelain and pewter. Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away of materials containing these metals. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15 ug/l for lead and 1300 ug/l for copper. If concentrations measured in your household water exceed these "action levels", you can minimize your exposure by:

- "flushing" the cold water faucet until the water becomes as cold as it will get, this removes the water that has stagnated in your home plumbing over several hours;
- using cold water for drinking or cooking;
- not cooking with or consuming water from the hot water faucet;
- not using hot water for making baby formula;
- using only "lead-free" solder, fluxes and materials in new household plumbing and repairs.

An individual report will not be mailed to each customer. Reports are available upon request.