Annual Water Quality Report

Water testing performed in 2007

PWS ID#: 0450002

Meeting the Challenge

We are once again proud to present to you our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1 through December 31, 2007. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Community Participation

The mayor and city council meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Public Safety Complex, 115 West Center Street, Carrollton, Georgia.

The City of Carrollton is interested in hearing your concerns, which may range from the level of service with billing and meter reading, to the professionalism of our service and repair crews, to the quality of the water itself. Please e-mail us at waterconcerns@carrollton-ga.gov or call (770) 830-2000 with your questions/concerns/ comments. You may also use the downloadable form that may be found on the City Web site, www.carrollton-ga.gov, just download, fill out and drop off in the drive-through window at City Hall.

If you would be interested in allowing us to use your home or business as a water quality monitoring site, please e-mail us your name, address and phone number to cmashburn@carrollton-ga.gov.

Source Water Assessment

The categories of potential pollution sources found in the Source Water Assessment are confined animal feed lots, NPDES stormwater and mining, airports, hazardous waste facilities and mining, LAS permit holders, and roads that cross over streams. A copy of the Source Water Assessment may be viewed on the City's Web site: www.carrollton-ga.gov, water quality. Click to view the Source Water Assessment.

"WELL-INFORMED CUSTOMERS ARE OUR BEST ALLIES."

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Carrollton draws its water from the Little Tallapoosa River. We are also fortunate enough to have three reservoirs. The Little Tallapoosa River runs through one of these reservoirs, Lake Buckhorn. Sharpes Creek Reservoir flows into the Little Tallapoosa River, and Lake Carroll flows into Curtis Creek, which then flows into the Little Tallapoosa River. Lake Carroll and Sharpes Creek Reservoirs have restrictions on them to aid in protecting our water sources. A copy of these restrictions may be obtained from the Water Department at the City Hall or on our Web site, www.carrollton-ga.gov.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Don North, Water Plant Superintendent, or Connie Mashburn, Laboratory Analyst, at (770) 830-2021.

Proactive Approach

In an effort to assure our customers, the City of Carrollton tested its drinking water for certain pharmaceuticals and chemicals in November 2007. We looked for items such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Caffeine, and the surfactant used in soap.

These are substances that water systems are not presently required to monitor; therefore there are no State or Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's).

Our customers can be assured that the City of Carrollton drinking water system is clean, safe, and of the highest possible quality.

Results reported here are at Detection Limits; which means that this is the lowest value the instrumentation can detect.

Caffeine was found at a concentration of 50 parts per trillion. This means 50 parts in 1,000,000,000,000 parts of water or about 59 drops in the entire water system of 15 million gallons.

Tylenol was found at a concentration of 5 parts per trillion or 6 drops in the entire system.

Soap surfactant was found at a concentration of 1.8 parts per trillion or 2 drops in the entire system.

If you should have questions regarding this issue or anything concerning our water and wastewater systems, please call Tim Grizzard, Assistant City Manager at (770) 830-2000.

Cryptosporidium in Drinking Water

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Cryptosporidium monitoring in 2005, 2006 and 2007 has revealed no presence of these organisms in our source water.

Q: How much water is lost to a dripping faucet?

A: Dripping faucets waste a precious resource and it costs you money. As an example, if you have a faucet that drips 60 times a minute, this adds up to over 3 gallons each day or 1,225 gallons each year.

Q: What makes water Hard?

A: If substantial amounts of either calcium or magnesium, both nontoxic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. Hard water does not dissolve soap readily, so making lather for washing and cleaning is difficult. Conversely, water containing little calcium or magnesium is called soft water.

Q: How long can I store drinking water?

A: The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Q: Should I put a brick in my toilet tank to save water?

A: Toilet flushing uses a lot of water: about 40% of a household's total water usage. Putting something in the toilet tank that takes up space, like a toilet dam or a water filled jug, is a good idea. But putting a brick in the tank is not a good idea. Bricks tend to crumble and might damage your toilet.

Lead and Drinking Water

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 Carrollton 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 at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken thousands of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. Although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2007	[4]	[4]	1.65	0.43–1.95	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2007	60	NA	30	30–50	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2007	10	10	0.29	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2007	80	NA	40	30–60	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2007	TT	NA	1.9	1.4–2.3	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[1] (NTU)	2007	TT	NA	0.28	0.02–0.28	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2007	TT	NA	100 %	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected from 30 sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2006	1.3	1.3	0.19	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2006	15	0	4	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Fluoride (ppm)	2007	2.0	NA	0.77	ND–1.36	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

[1] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Definitions

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

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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