

2010 Thomson/McDuffie Water Quality Report

HIGH WATER QUALITY

This is the thirteenth annual report required by new Federal regulations on the quality of the drinking water provided to customers of the Thomson-McDuffie County and Dearing Water System. This brochure summarizes the laboratory data taken during the past year and reflects the hard work of our 10 employees to bring you water that is safe to drink and use.

Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Your Drinking Water Department is committed to providing you with valuable information about your water supply, because customers who are well informed are our best allies in supporting our efforts to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

NEW REQUIRED HEALTH 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. The Thomson-McDuffie Water System 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS NOT MET FOR LEAD AND COPPER

The Thomson-McDuffie Water System failed to meet monitoring requirements and was late sampling for the required sampling period of 1-1-2007 to 12-31-2009.

Routine monitoring for lead and copper consists of taking drinking water samples at designated homes throughout our community once every three years. Our water system did not fully accomplish this in the 2007-2009 sampling period. **The Thomson-McDuffie Water System returned to monitoring compliance August 2010.** For more information on lead and copper, you may call George T. Nichols, Water Director, at 706-595-1262. State Water System ID No. GA189001.

SOURCE DESCRIPTION

Thomson-McDuffie County customers are very fortunate to have two separate sources for their water supply. The original source can withdraw approximately 1.5 million gallons per day from Usry's

Pond, a small spring and surface fed impoundment. In 1991, after the severe drought and water use restrictions in the mid-80's, an intake and new water treatment plant were constructed on the Big Creek Branch of the Clarks Hill Reservoir, north of the City of Thomson. This second source can withdraw approximately 2 million gallons per day from Clarks Hill Reservoir.

To better protect our drinking water reservoirs, both the City of Thomson and McDuffie County have passed Watershed Protection Ordinances. With everyone's cooperation and help, these ordinances will prevent or limit those activities that lead to increased biological or chemical contaminants entering the small streams that flow into Usry's Pond. The Corps of Engineers have similar limits on undesired activities around Clarks Hill Reservoir.

After treatment, the water from both facilities is pumped into the same distribution system, composed of underground pipes and elevated storage tanks, for delivery to the customers. Thus, either intake/treatment plant can supply all the water needs of our customers for several days depending on the rainfall and together; the combined sources will serve our community's needs in the future.

SUBSTANCES IN WATER

As described above, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) can include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves and picks up naturally occurring minerals and substances resulting from natural processes including human and animal activity. In order to assure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for substances in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health as that served at your tap.

REQUIRED HEALTH INFORMATION

"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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline [(800) 426-4791].

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

Billing Information: (706) 595-1781

Water Plant: (706) 595-1312 / (706) 595-1262

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 [(800) 426-4791].” (*Center for Disease Control)

“Some people who drink water containing trichloromethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.” (EPA Required Notice.)

THANKS FROM YOUR WATER PROFESSIONALS

Thanks for all your support in 2010. We recorded a great year for water quality. Just as a reminder, the State of Georgia passed The Georgia Water Stewardship Act in June of 2010.

**FOR RULES ON OUTDOOR WATERING, VISIT
www.gaepd.org/documents/outdoorwater.html**

*George T. Nichols
Thomson-McDuffie Water Director*

2010 TREATED WATER QUALITY LABORATORY RESULTS

SUBSTANCES	HIGHEST LEVEL ALLOWED	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	ANNUAL AVERAGE	IDEAL GOALS	2010 NUMBER TESTS RUN	SOURCES OF SUBSTANCES
TURBIDITY	0.3 NTUs in 95%/samples	0.17 NTU	.060 NTU	.050 NTU	9800	Soil run-off
FLUORIDE	4.0 ppm	1.1 ppm	.80 ppm	.70 ppm	1000	Natural/Geological supplement
MANGENESE	.050 ppm	.0025 ppm	.000 ppm	.000 ppm	4500	Natural Geology
IRON	.3 ppm	.05 ppm	.02 ppm	.000 ppm	3500	
LEAD	15 ppb	72 ppb	3.0 ppb	< 10 ppb	Every 3 Years	Natural run-off/Corrosion of pipes
COPPER	1300 ppb	.53 ppb	36 ppb	< 500 ppb		
RESIDUAL CHLORINE	4.0 ppm	1.6 ppm	.40 ppm	.40 ppm	10,000+	Added for disinfection
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES	80 ppb	.0090 ppb	.0043 ppb	30 ppb	32	By-products of chlorination
HALOACETIC ACIDS	60 ppb	.045 ppb	.21 ppb	15 ppb	32	

N/E = None Established

ppb = One part per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppm = One part per million

AL = Action Level, the concentration of a substance that triggers additional treatment or other requirements for the water system

*MCLs = Maximum Contaminant Level: “The highest level of a substance that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.”

**MCLGs = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: “The level of a substance in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TT = Treatment Technology. Depends on best available treatment technology.

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

< = Less than

Free Chlorine is measured every 15 minutes electronically. Turbidity is measured every 15 minutes electronically. Residual Chlorine samples above are taken manually every week by trained operators.

The Granular Activated Carbon Vessels are performing as predicted and lowering the total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids to a very low level. The vessels have allowed the water system to operate with a lower Chlorine Residual, thus reducing costs, and better tasting water.

YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK AND USE

These data indicate that your Thomson-McDuffie County Water System is producing a very high-quality water that surpasses the State and Federal Water Quality Standards established to protect the health of all of the consumers. All customers are invited to attend Commission Meetings at City Hall for questions or comments. For dates and times of meetings or to arrange group tours of water treatment facilities, contact City Hall at (706) 595-1781.

A LITTLE COST SAVER FOR THE LADIES OF THE HOUSE

Our municipal water is highly treated to remove many organisms and minerals. The removal of minerals softens the water, making it soluble in soaps. Try using one half of the recommended washing powder or liquid soaps you use in the laundry. This can save some dollars over the year. If you have a washer that has extra rinse cycles, try using a little more water in the rinsing cycle. See if your clothes are fresher!