

## City of Cochran – Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Cochran Water Department is pleased to report that our drinking water meets and/or exceeds the regulations as set by the State of Georgia and Federal Governments. Included in this report is important information in regards to your water quality, where it comes from, the parameters of detected contaminants and how our water compares to those parameters as set by State and Federal regulatory agencies. The contaminants that were detected in our drinking water is listed in this report. Last year, the City of Cochran conducted tests for more than 80 water parameters to insure the water we provide to our customers is safe. Our Water Department is committed to providing our community with a sufficient quality of clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. For more information about our drinking water program or this Consumer Confidence Report contact Greg Craft at (478)-934-6346 Ext 401. The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels off the surfaces 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 and/or human activity. The City of Cochran gets its water from four municipal wells. Well #2, located on Ash Street, is approximately 500 feet deep. Well #3, located on West Dykes Street, is approximately 375 feet deep. Well #4, located on Vernon Road, is approximately 650 feet deep. Well #5, located on Ann Street, is approximately 250 feet deep. This water source is commonly called the Upper Floridian Aquifer, and provides ample volumes of water for our community. The characteristics of this water source does not change as rapidly as surface water. The City of Cochran owns these well sites, and property is protected by City of Cochran ordinances, which prohibit certain types of activities that could contaminate this water source. Water treatment is performed at each of these sites by State of Georgia licensed Class III Water Operators. This treatment includes disinfecting with chlorine, fluoride treatment, and removal of contaminants. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advantages of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of some contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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 healthcare 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment includes: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. Pesticides and herbicides 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 a byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum productions, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas productions and mining activities. 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 or components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Cochran 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 (yard faucet) for 2 to 5 minutes before using 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, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). The City of Cochran Water System is a vital part of our community and drinking water is our most precious commodity. Therefore, it is meaningful for all of us in the community to work together to conserve and protect our source water as well as our drinking water. In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, samples are pulled, laboratory tests are conducted, and the EPA prescribes regulations which governs these activities and limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by a public water system. The FDA regulations establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water, which through our monitoring and testing some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that our water is **SAFE** at these levels. \*The EPD has detected that the contaminants of certain water quality monitoring parameters do not change frequently within our system; therefore, some of the data represented in this report are greater than 1 year old. \*\*The MLC for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPD considers 50 pCi/1 as the level of concern for beta particles. MLC's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the current MCL levels for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having the described health effects. \*\*\* A memorandum signed May 4, 1999, by Mr. Harold F. Rehls, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, states that former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes has approved a special variance for community water systems which serve less than 10,000 consumers. Since our system serves less than 10,000 consumers, the City of Cochran chooses to exercise this option and not mail the Water Quality Annual Report to each customer. The city will publish the report in the local newspaper. The report will be available upon open records request at City Hall, 112 West Dykes Street Cochran, Georgia 31014. The City of Cochran Water Department works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap in our system. We ask that our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.