

## **1999 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

### **A message from H.E. Holcomb, Executive Director**

Management and employees of the Macon Water Authority are pleased to present the second annual Water Quality Report on Macon's drinking water. The purpose of the report is to educate you on the quality of your water supply and report how we have performed. Although we had a minor violation in 1999, the quality of your drinking water remains high. The violation was due to a specific site in the distribution system and not a problem at the treatment plant. (See the chart titled Water Quality Data.) All water produced at the plant met State and Federal standards.

We want you to feel secure about your water supply so we have begun a Source Water Assessment and Protection Implementation Plan. This plan will be complete by November of 2003. It will cover the watersheds of the Ocmulgee River and Town Creek above our water supply reservoir.

Town Creek Water Treatment Plant will be operational in July 2000. Please come and see this great resource for Macon and Middle Georgia.

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### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER**


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 could seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers, Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control. All of these have guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants and are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline ( 800 ) 426-4791.


The sources of drinking water ( both tap water 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.


Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

 *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria which 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 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

 *Radioactive contaminants*, which can naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottle water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER**

Last year the Macon Water Authority conducted over 170,000 tests on your drinking water. It is our goal and commitment to ensure our customers, and visitors to our community receive clean, safe, and reliable

drinking water. These tests have been conducted on over 160 drinking water parameters. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

### **OUR WATER SYSTEM**

Since the turn of the century the Macon community has received the bulk of its drinking water from the Ocmulgee River upstream from the city. The Riverside Water Treatment Plant has served this community for better than 100 years. Over the years the plant has been expanded to its present capacity of 48 million gallons per day. During the summer months this capacity has been tested frequently. The Macon Water Authority at present supplies water to over 50,000 customers. Our distribution system spans over 1,500 miles of water line, and delivered close to 12 billion gallons of water in 1999. In 2000, the Macon Water Authority will bring online a new state of the art water treatment plant called Town Creek. It will serve our great community well into the next millennium and provide us with more reliability and better quality.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER BOARD**

The Macon Water Authority holds board meetings the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM in the board room on the second floor of the Macon Water Authority main office at 790 Second Street in Macon.

### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY**

Tours of the water plant for environmental groups, churches, civic associations, schools, and youth clubs are available. We will also provide speakers to groups who will be able to pass on information on public health and safety issues. For more information on the above mentioned items call George Couto at 912-741-2625.

### **WATER QUALITY DATA**

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we have detected during the 1999 calendar year.

#### **REGULATED SUBSTANCES**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Highest Detected Amount</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Any Violation</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contamination</b>
Copper	ppb	1,300	1,300	180	0 - 230	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	1.4	0.7 - 1.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which

							promotes strong teeth
Lead *	ppb	0	15	10.0	0 - 37.0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.4	0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizer use.
Sodium	ppm	N/A	500	7.6	7.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	N/A	TT	0.44	0.01 - 0.44	No	Soil Runoff
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	0	80	71.95	38.46 to 71.95	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform	%	0	5%	6.8%	0 - 6.8%	Yes	Naturally present in the environment.
Zinc	ppm	5	5	0.91	0.91	No	Corrosion control additive in water.

\* Lead - Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your household plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated levels of lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline ( 800-426-4791 ).

## LEGEND

**MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, is the highest amount of a substance allowed in drinking water.

**MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, is the ideal goal, below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**N/A** - Not Applicable.

**NTU** - Nephelometric turbidity units.

**ppm** - Parts per million, means 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligram per liter)

**ppb** - Parts per billion, means 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as microgram per liter)

**TT** - Treatment technique means a required treatment technique or process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

**<** - Less than

## TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED ON DATA CHART

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)- The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)- measure of turbidity in water. PPM- parts per million, one part per million equals one drop of water in a million drops of water. PPB- parts per billion, one part per billion equals one grain of sand in a billion grains of sand. Treatment Technique (TT)- a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water. Turbidity- a measure of the clarity of drinking water, the lower the turbidity the better.



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