Franklin County Water System
Water Quality Report 2023
WSID # 1190051

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact BJ Hulsey at 706-384-3318. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings which are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Franklin County Justice Center.

OUR WATER SOURCE

Your water sources are drilled wells, located at 275 Isbell Rd, Carnesville, **Active**, 1463 Turkey Creek Rd, Carnesville, **Active**, 4559 Highway 326, Carnesville, **Active**, 8165 Athens Rd, Carnesville, **Inactive**, 5665 Stone Bridge Rd, Carnesville, **Active**, 156 Thompson Rd, Carnesville, **Active**, and 460 Grimm Rd, Martin, **Active**. In addition to this source, we have an interconnection with Banks County 0110026, **Active**, and the cities of Toccoa 2570001, **Active**, Lavonia 1190003, **Active**, Royston 1190004, **Active**, and Carnesville 1190001, **Inactive**. We perform treatment to each of these sources to include removal of contaminants and chlorine disinfection. We produced 504,958,500 gallons of safe drinking water and purchased 320,551,404 gallons of water from the City of Toccoa 2570001, City of Lavonia 1190003, and the Banks County Water System 0110026.

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 (EPA) 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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 water 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. **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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791).

DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS:

In the table listed below you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following explanations:

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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."

WATER QUALITY DATA

The following table includes all contaminants that were detected in our drinking water during the 2023 calendar year.

Microbiological Monitoring Results					
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Franklin Co Water System	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	5%	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

TEST RESULTS

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/22/2022	1.3	1.3	0.2	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	2	1 - 2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	26	12.1 - 39	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	25	11.9 - 38.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2023	0.052	0 - 0.052	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2023	0.67	0.59 - 0.67	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2023	5	0 - 4.9	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2023	2	0 - 2.11	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2023	22	4.1 - 61.2	0	15	pCi/L	Y	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2023	26	22.052 - 28.9507	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations Table

Consumer Confidence Rule

The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR ADEQUACY/AVAILABILITY/CONTENT	10/01/2023	10/25/2023	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.

Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, AVERAGE	10/01/2023	12/31/2023	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

Public Notification Rule

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	04/21/2022	2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	02/21/2023	03/23/2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

****As you can see by the table, our system was over the MCL for Gross Alpha. Franklin County Water System was issued a notice of violation for exceeding this limit by Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Gross Alpha is found in wells finished into granite bedrock of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont Aquifer System which encompasses most of north Georgia. The EPD states " this is not an immediate risk".**

Please call our office Monday thru Friday (8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) at 706-384-3318 if you have questions or comments concerning this report.