NCWSA Surface Water to Tap

Have you ever had water that had a dissatisfactory color, odor or taste? You would wonder if it was safe to drink, wouldn't you? At NCWSA, we understand that you only expect the best water that is pleasing to sight and smell and guarded against pathogens. Two water sources supply water for two treatment facilities that produce a blended water for customers. Lake Varner, an 820-acre reservoir, is the source for Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility. Cornish Creek WTF is an up-flow clarification facility permitted for 25 MGD (Million Gallons per Day). Ninety-five percent of the water produced in 2014 by NCWSA came from Lark Varner. Williams St. WTF is a conventional plant capable of producing 4.0 MGD. Its source of water is the Alcovy River. Conrish Creek WTF pumps water from the Alcovy River to City Pond Reservoir where it gravity flows or is pumped to Williams St WTF. Contaminants and potential pollution sources in a watershed are identified in a source water assessment plan. A source water assessment plan for the Alcovy River watershed has been completed. The overall susceptibility of the water was rated medium. The greatest potential threat to source water quality is agricultural waste ponds and secondary paved roads. The recommendations from the plan will ensure that citizens served by NCWSA will be provided with the best quality water in the future.

About Your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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, and 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 also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems

Ensuring the quality of the water that we deliver to you and your family every day is of utmost importance to the Authority. Drinking water is treated at facilities owned and operated by Newton County Water Resources. The County conducts tests daily to ensure drinking water complies with all federal and state safe drinking water requirements. As a wholesale customer of drinking water produced by the County, we at the Authority are committed to providing you with information regarding that drinking water. The following notice is included for your information. It is not unusual to have a situation such as this arise in a drinking water system, and the Authority has taken steps to mitigate any impacts. We continue to have full confidence in the quality of the water you are receiving.

(A) Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

(B) During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment and we completed the level 1 assessment immediately upon notification. In addition, we were required to take only one corrective action and we completed the required corrective action per the drinking water guidelines of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

During the one assessment and corrective action, the Authority completed a thorough and complete evaluation of each sampling location and the surrounding area. All of the sampling results were negative for the presence of coliforms in the drinking water system. The Authority has been diligent in its monitoring and sampling of its distribution system since this occurred and there have been no further sampling irregularities since the above-mentioned event in June of 2016. As stated above we take care in serving our customers with a reliable and safe product and will continue to do so in the future.

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

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 EPA'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, as well as some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791.

WQ
WATER QUALITY REPORT

A REFRESHING TOMORROW

2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

WaterFirst
Committed to Caring For Our Water Resources

P.O. Box 1137 • Covington, GA 30015
11325 Brown Bridge Road • Covington, GA 30016
770.787.1375 • 770.786.4536

NEWTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORTITY

Cornish Creek WTF = Source of 95% of Water Produced in 2015
Williams Street WTF = Source of 5% of Water Produced in 2015

Detected Contaminants Table

Regulated Contaminants

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Newton County Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants							
Filtered Turbidity	TT = 0.3 NTU 95% of Samples < 0.3 NTU	0 100%	0.18 NTU	0.02 - 0.18 NTU	**None**	2016	Agriculture, Geology
Total Coliform Bacteria		0% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	**None**	2016	Naturally Occurring
Fecal Coliform Bacteria		0% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	**None**	2016	Human & Animal Waste
Total Organic Carbon	TT	N/A	1.7 ppm	0.8 - 1.7 ppm	**None**	2016	Human & Animal Waste
Organic Compounds							
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	N/A	*60.0 ppb	11.0 - 65.0 ppb	**None**	2016	Treatment Process By-Product
Haloacetic Acid	60 ppb	N/A	*36.0 ppb	12.0 - 50.0 ppb	**None**	2016	Treatment Process By-Product
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	3.95 ppb	0.64 - 3.95 ppm	**None**	2016	By-product of drinking water chlorination

* TTHMs and HAA5s = Annual averages are used for compliance

Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.16 ppm	0.57 - 1.16 ppm	**None**	2016	Additive/Naturally Occurring

Substance	Action Level	MCLG	Newton County Water System 90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above Action Level	Number of Violations	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Copper	1300 ppb	N/A	56 ppb	0	**None**	2014	Household Piping
Lead	15 ppb	N/A	0.0 ppb	0	**None**	2014	Household Piping

DEFINITIONS

MG: Million Gallons

MGD: Million Gallons per Day

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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.

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

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

Turbidity: A measure of cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

ppm (mg/L): Parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is the equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

ppb (µg/L): Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is the equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

N/A: Not Applicable