

## Drinking Water Quality Table Key

**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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs 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.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a 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.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

<b>Key:</b> for all units used in table	
AL	Action Level
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not detected at testing limit
NR	Not regulated
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.)
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (one part per million is equivalent to one penny in 10 thousand dollars.)
TT	Treatment Technique

## Regulated Contaminants

2011	Parameter	Sample Location	MCL	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation	
	<b>Microbiological</b>						
	Total Coliform Bacteria	Distribution System	Presence of Coliform bacteria in <5.0% of monthly samples	1.1%	NA	No	
	Turbidity	Treatment Plants	TT=1 NTU	0.6	NA	No	
	Turbidity (%of samples)	Treatment Plants	95% of samples <0.3 NTU	100%	NA	No	
	<b>Inorganic</b>						
	Fluoride (ppm)	Treatment Plants	4	0.8	0.6 - 1.0	No	
	Chlorine (ppm)	Distribution System	4 (MRDL)	1.0	<0.07 - 2.1	No	
	Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm)	Treatment Plants	10	0.57	0.46 - 0.65	No	
	<b>Organic</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Distribution System	80	44*	22 - 57	No		
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	Distribution System	60	40*	12 - 38	No		
Total Organic Carbon	Treatment Plants	Treatment Technique	1.04**	1.00 - 1.56	No		

\*TTHM and HAA5 are running averages computed quarterly

\*\*TOC is a calculated removal ratio

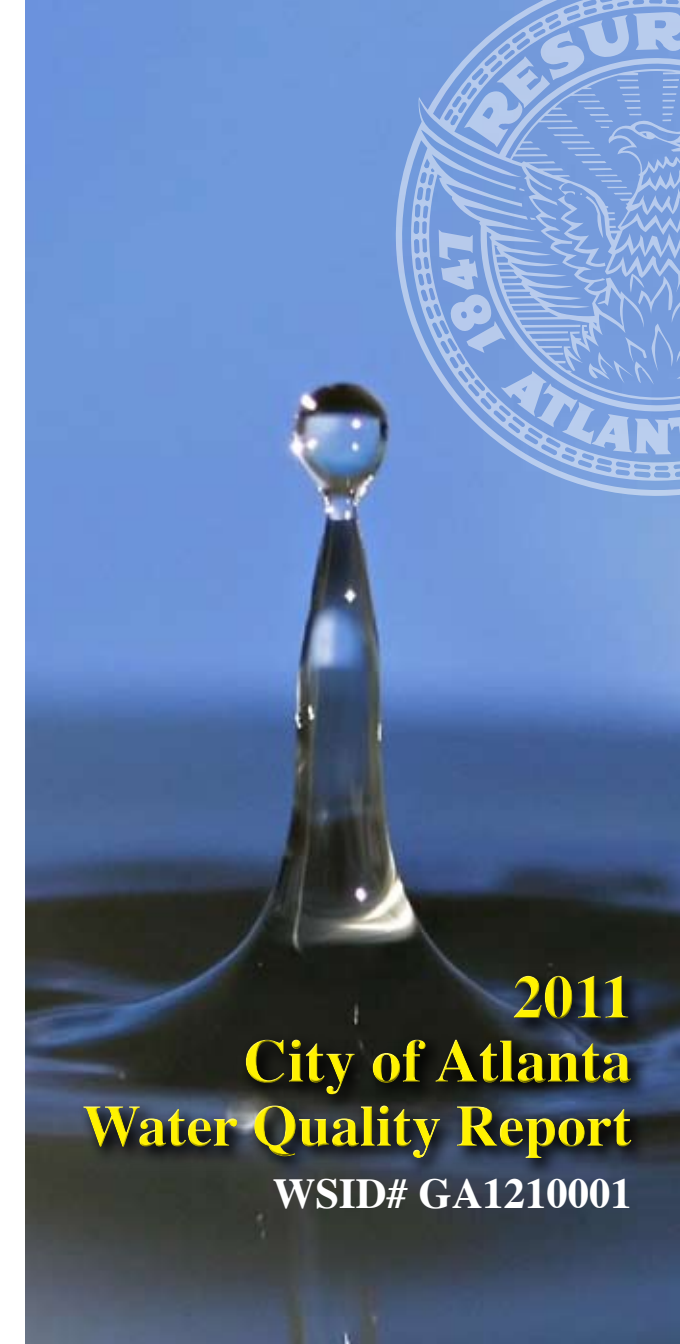
2009	Parameter/Units	Sample Location	MCL	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation	
	<b>Inorganic</b>						
	Copper (ppm)	Distribution System	AL = 1.3	1	52 samples, no sites were found above the AL	No	
Lead (ppb)	Distribution System	AL = 15	2.5	52 samples, 1 site was found above the AL	No		

## Unregulated Contaminants

2011	Parameter	Sample Location	MCL	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation
	<b>Microbiological</b>					
	Cryptosporidium	Source Water	NA	1	0 - 1	No

### About Lead and Copper

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 City of Atlanta Bureau of Drinking Water 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/safe-water/lead>.



# 2011 City of Atlanta Water Quality Report

WSID# GA1210001

## Our Clean Water Commitment

The City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (DWM) is pleased to provide the 2011 Water Quality Report (WQR). Compiled and presented by the DWM Bureau of Watershed Protection, this WQR supplies information about Atlanta's drinking water system and shows that the City's drinking water continues to meet or exceed standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year, the City conducts more than 50,000 tests to screen for more than 150 potential contaminants in its drinking water. Water is analyzed for hundreds of compounds; however, the tables shown in this report list only regulated substances that were detected during the tests, even if the detected amount was below the highest level allowed by EPA and federal regulations.



Throughout 2011, DWM continued its efforts to rebuild the City's drinking water infrastructure in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. DWM recently completed the Valve & Hydrant Program and has begun an intensive Leak Detection Program and related Critical Mains Repair/Replacement Project. These projects will reduce the amount of water lost to leaks and address water pressure problems and instances of discolored water in areas of the City with older or leaking mains.

For more information about these or other current City of Atlanta water and wastewater infrastructure projects, visit [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org).

## Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta Water System and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) have completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of surface water pollution to your drinking water supply. The results of this assessment can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/swap/> or you can request information by mail from the ARC.

Attn: Matthew Harper  
Environmental Planning Division  
Atlanta Regional Commission  
40 Courtland Street, NE  
Atlanta GA 30303

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 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 stormwater 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, stormwater runoff and residential uses.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration 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 disorder, 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Citizen Participation

The Department's Communications & Community Relations Office educates and informs residents about water quality issues and infrastructure projects that may affect them. The division also includes a public education component designed to encourage and educate community groups, residents, schoolchildren and seniors about water conservation and water resource issues. For information about the Communications & Community Relations Office, please contact Janet Ward at 404-589-2691.



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 the 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 (1-800-426-4791).

## The Source of Atlanta's Water

Each day, the Atlanta water system provides approximately 100 million gallons of treated drinking water to nearly 1.2 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta area. All the water processed is surface water from the Chattahoochee River.

The raw water intake for the Chattahoochee and Hemphill water treatment plants is located on the Chattahoochee River. The Chattahoochee plant receives the water directly from the river. The Hemphill plant processes raw water that has

**Cryptosporidium** was detected in a source water sample that supplies one of our treatment plants in September, 2011. No Cryptosporidium was detected in any other samples.

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. When ingested, it can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. **Cryptosporidium** must be ingested to cause disease, however, it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. Immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses and are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to prevent infection.

been pumped from the river to a reservoir. The two plants supply about 75 percent of Atlanta's drinking water with the remaining water supplied by the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant, which also processes Chattahoochee River water. This plant, which is owned jointly by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County, supplies treated water to the northeast part of the City's distribution system.



## Important Information

This report contains very important information about your drinking water.

If you do not understand it, have someone explain it to you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.



**Contact Information:**  
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Bureau of Watershed Protection • Water Quality Division  
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Atlanta GA 30318  
404-982-1468

To obtain a copy of this report, please visit: [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org)