2020

Henry County Water Quality Report
January 1 – December 31, 2019

HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
HCWA

Tap Water more strictly regulated than bottled water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. However, FDA regulations establish the limits for contaminants in bottled 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 at 1-800-426-4791. Additional online sources are available at: www.epa.gov/safewater; amwa.net; epd.georgia.gov/; and www.awwa.org.

An Award-Winning Year for Henry County Water

During this past year (2019 to date), Henry County Water Authority received the following industry awards for outstanding performance:

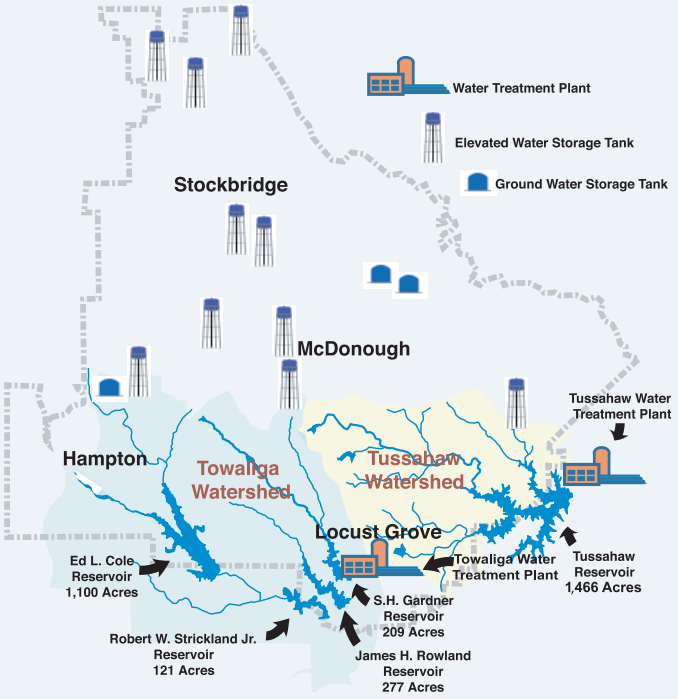
- 2019 Laboratory QA/QC Awards – Wastewater Lab Serving 5-20 MGD
- 2019 Platinum Water Distribution System Excellence Award
- 2019 Platinum Wastewater Collection System Excellence Award
- 2019 GAWP N.M deJarnette Award Eric Osborne
- 2019 AWWA Silver Water Drop Award – Scott Harrison for 25 years of service
- 2020 GAWWA Golden Hydrant Society inductee Andy Young
- 2020 Education Program of Excellence Award – (Water)
- 2020 GAWP Top Operator - Sheila Kern, Class 1 Operator - Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant
- 2020 Certificate of Achievement for Best Operated Water Plant Tussahaw & Towaliga WTP's
- 2020 Platinum Award for 100% Permit Compliance for thirteen consecutive years at the Tussahaw and Towaliga Water Treatment Plants.
- 2020 Wastewater Facility Gold Award for 100% Compliance – Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility
- 2020 Land Application System Gold Award for 100% Compliance Bear Creek Facility
- 2020 An eleventh straight GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- 2020 Continued recognition as a WaterFirst Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- 2020 Continued recognition as a WaterSense Promotional Partner by the U.S. EPA.

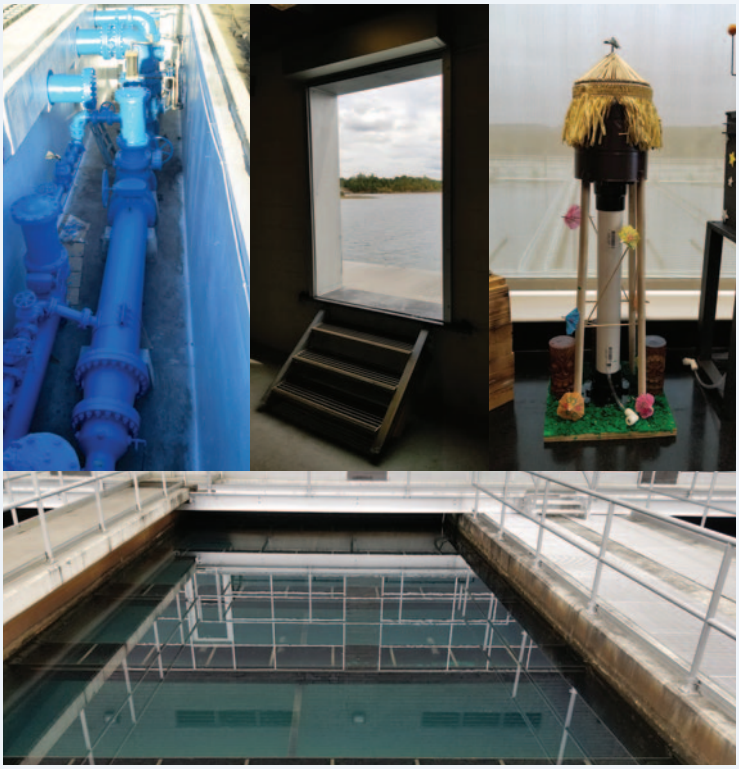
About This Report

Water quality is the highest priority of Henry County Water Authority (HCWA). Our team of professionals works diligently to safeguard the water supplied to our customers, as well as to ensure that it meets or exceeds all federal (EPA) and state (EPD) drinking water standards.

For 59 years HCWA has continued its commitment to deliver the highest quality water possible. We are once again pleased to report we had no water quality violations during 2019. In this report, we will review information about your water system and sources, the substances and contaminants we test for, the water treatment processes we oversee, and the avenues available for your involvement, as HCWA continues to provide clean, safe drinking water.

HCWA Water System





An Overview of our System and Water Sources

Henry County Water Authority was founded in 1961 by Act of the Georgia General Assembly. Our system is supplied by five drinking water reservoirs with a total storage capacity of more than 18 billion gallons, which equates to more than 500 days of supply, even without additional rainfall. HCWA has approximately 1,347 miles of transmission and distribution water mains, 15 storage tanks with 28.9 million gallons of finished drinking water storage capacity, and two water treatment plants with a combined production capacity of 40.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

Source water used for drinking water production at HCWA is untreated raw water collected from streams, rivers, or lakes. The included map highlights the watersheds (shaded areas) that contain the five HCWA source water reservoirs.

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a river, stream, or lake. HCWA is a surface water system, utilizing raw water from surface water runoff for drinking water production. In 2018, HCWA had approximately 60,000 metered customers, representing 174,000 consumers, in a county of 213,869 citizens.

Source Water Assessment

HCWA and the Atlanta Regional Commission completed a source water assessment that itemized potential sources of surface water pollution within the watershed areas of the water supply of Henry County Water Authority. The results of the assessment reveal a susceptibility rating of "low to medium" when combining all individual and non-point source rankings. The source water assessment is available by writing to HCWA at 1695 Highway 20 West; McDonough, GA 30253 or at HCWASourceWaterAssessment.

The Safety of Your Drinking Water

As scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of substances present therein, new standards are being set for drinking water production. The sources of drinking water — whether consumed from the tap or bottle — include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs, and wells. In a surface water system such as HCWA's, rain water travels over land and dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials, in addition to picking up substances present from animal or human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water, before water treatment, include:

- Biological Substances – which may come from humans, septic/sewer systems, agricultural livestock, or wildlife sources.
- Inorganic Substances – which may be naturally occurring, or result from storm water runoff, farming, as well as industrial or domestic (wastewater) discharges.
- Pesticides and Herbicides – which may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, or landscape.
- Organic Substances – which may come from industrial or domestic processes, stormwater runoff, and/or septic (tank) systems.
- Radioactive Substances – which can be naturally occurring or result from mining activity or oil and gas production.
- Cryptosporidium – a parasite that is resistant to chlorine and can survive in water, and it can cause severe diarrhea in humans, if infected.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances (categorized above) in water provided by public water systems such as HCWA.

Regulated Substances

SUBSTANCES TESTED AND DETECTED	UNITS	GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM ALLOWED (MCL)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	IS IT SAFE? DOES IT MEET STANDARDS?	PROBABLE SOURCE
NON-DISINFECTION SUBSTANCES							
Copper (b)	ppm	1.3	AL=1.300	0.080	*0 Samples Above AL	Yes	CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS
Lead (b)	ppb	0	AL=15	1.3	*1 Sample Above AL	Yes	CORROSION OF HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEMS
Fluoride (a)	ppm	4	4	0.75	0.43 - 1.10	Yes	WATER ADDITIVE THAT PROMOTES STRONG TEETH
Turbidity (c)	NTU	TT	TT	*Highest value of the year 0.82	*% of Samples < 0.3 NTU 97.92%	Yes	SOIL RUNOFF
Total Organic Carbon (d)	NA	TT	TT	1.0	1.2 - 2.2	Yes	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT
Total Coliform (e)	%	0	5%	0.1%	0% - 0.8%	Yes	NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT
DISINFECTION SUBSTANCES		(MRDLG)	(MRDL)				
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	2.25	0.03 - 2.78	Yes	WATER ADDITIVE USED TO CONTROL MICROBES
Haloacetic Acids (f)	ppb	0	60	33.0	12.2 - 49.0	Yes	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION
Total Trihalomethanes (f)	ppb	0	80	70.0	16.5 - 76.8	Yes	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION

Unregulated Substances

SUBSTANCES TESTED AND DETECTED	UNITS OF MEASURE	GOAL (MCLG)	MAXIMUM ALLOWED (MCL)	AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?	PROBABLE SOURCE
HAA5	ppb	None Established	None Established	28.10	18.27 - 39.89	See Below *	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION
HAA6Br	ppb	None Established	None Established	6.69	4.190 - 8.493	See Below *	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION
HAA9	ppb	None Established	None Established	34.79	22.620 - 47.768	See Below *	BY-PRODUCT OF DRINKING WATER CHLORINATION
Alpha-Hexachlorocyclohexane	ppb	None Established	None Established	0.02	0 - 0.015	See Below *	COMPONENT OF BENZENE HEXACHLORIDE (BHC); FORMERLY USED AS AN INSECTICIDE
Ethoprop	ppb	None Established	None Established	0.04	0.41 - 0.41	See Below *	USED AS AN INSECTICIDE
Manganese	ppb	None Established	None Established	15.79	2.02 - 36.2	See Below *	NATURALLY-OCCURRING ELEMENT; COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS & MINERALS; USED IN STEEL PRODUCTION, FERTILIZER, BATTERIES AND FIREWORKS; DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL; ESSENTIAL NUTRIENT

*** The information in the above un-regulated substances table is part of the US EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule IV (UCMR IV). All the information is from 2019 HCWA was selected to participate with hundreds of other US Water Systems in this major testing program. UCMR IV is intended to provide EPA with information about the occurrence of substances that may be found in potable water supplies. The information gathered on these substances will be used to possibly revise drinking water standards in the future. It is important to remember that non of the items listed in the table above are currently under any regulations.**

Water Quality Terminology & Footnotes

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 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.

parts per billion (ppb) - A measurement concentration that is equivalent to micrograms per liter (Ug/L).

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. * May have up to 5 samples above action level and remain in compliance.

mL - Milliliter or one-thousandth of a liter. 1 liter is slightly more than a quart.

n/a - not applicable.

(b) - Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper however under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead-soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.

(c) - Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

(e) - 120 samples are tested each month. No more than 5% may be positive for total coliform bacteria.

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 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.

ppm - Parts Per Million - 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligram per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years, or 1 penny in $10 thousand.

TT - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. * we must report highest monthly value (0.82) plus the lowest percentage. #'s below 95% would be a violation.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units - a measure of water clarity.

(a) - Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the GA EPD optimum of 0.7 parts per million (see definition of ppm)

(d) - Total Organic Carbon is a measure of the possible formation of harmful chlorine byproducts. We monitor this substance (3) different ways to receive a complete picture of this substance in our water. Compliance with Federal law is determined by a ratio of all (3) methods and the ratio must be 1 or above.

(f) - These levels are based on a system-wide 4 quarter Local Running Annual Average at locations approved by the GAEPD. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of get getting cancer.

Notice to Persons with Compromised Immune Systems

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/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 (1-800-426-4791) or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm.

Opportunities for Public Involvement

The HCWA Board of Directors meets monthly. For the complete board meeting schedule or more information about HCWA facilities, operations, public initiatives, and opportunities for public education and involvement, contact us at 770-957-6659, or log onto our website at www.hcwa.com.

For questions concerning this report, contact:
Pat Hembree, Division Manager
Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant
199 Preservation Drive
Jackson, GA 30233
678-583-3901 (phone)
pat.hembree@hcwa.com (email)

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