

# 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Hiawassee Georgia/NC System

PWS ID# 01-22-126

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about from where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. 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 and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

### What EPA Wants You to Know

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 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 microbiological contaminants 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, 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; and 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### When You Turn on Your Tap, Consider the Source

*The City of Hiawassee's water system is supplied by surface water from one source, Lake Chatuge. Before entering the distribution system the water is treated at the Rowe Canupp treatment plant located in Hiawassee. The following chemicals are used in the treatment process, aluminum sulfate, soda ash, activated carbon, poly-phosphate, potassium permanganate and chlorine. In May 2000 a source water assessment was completed identifying potential pollution sources which may possess a risk to Hiawassee's water source. A copy of the source water assessment report is available at City Hall.*

### Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Results

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Water Supply (PWS) Section, Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) conducted assessments for all drinking water sources across North Carolina. The purpose of the assessments was to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source (well or surface water intake) to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs). The results of the assessment are available in SWAP Assessment Reports that include maps, background information and a relative susceptibility rating of Higher, Moderate or Lower.

Hiawassee/NC System purchases water from the City of Hiawassee. The source for the City of Hiawassee water is located in Georgia (Chatuge Lake). The State of Georgia does not require Source Water Assessment Program ratings.

Susceptibility of Sources to Potential Contaminant Sources (PCSs)

Source Name	Susceptibility Rating
Lake Chatuge	Not Applicable

**Violations that Your Water System Received for the Report Year**

During 2016, or during any compliance period that ended in 2016, we received **no** violations that covered the time period of January – December 2016.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community’s decisions affecting drinking water. Regular City Council meetings occur at City Hall on the first Tuesday on each month at 4:00 PM. The public is welcome.

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**Water Quality Data Table of Detected Contaminants**

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. **Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2016.** The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

*Not-Applicable (N/A)* – Information not applicable/not required for that particular water system or for that particular Rule.

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at the level of detection set for the particular methodology used.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

*Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)* - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

*Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)* - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal* – The “Level” (MRDLG) 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.

*Maximum Residual Disinfection Level* – The “Highest Level” (MRDL) of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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* - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

**Microbiological Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (presence or absence)	N	ND	0	one monthly positive	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or E. coli (presence or absence)	N	ND	0	a routine sample and repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	Human and animal fecal waste

\*\*For water systems that collect 40 or more samples per month:

**Turbidity-Systems with population <10,000**

Contaminant (units)	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	MCLG	MCL = 1.0	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon (Monthly)	N	0.96	0	0.0	
Turbidity (NTU) - Daily	N	0.27	N/A	TT = 5 NTU	Soil runoff
		%		TT = percentage of samples <0.5 NTU	

- Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Beginning January 2005, the turbidity rule will require, for all systems, that 95% or more of the monthly samples must be below 0.3 NTU.

**Lead and Copper Contaminants**

Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	Your Water	# of sites found above the AL	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/27/16	ND	0	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	9/27/16	ND	0	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

*If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Hiawassee 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 with 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/safewater/lead>.

#### Disinfection By-Product Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	MCL/MRDL Violation Y/N	Your Water (AVG)	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb) 9/20/16 [Total Trihalomethanes]	N	21	21	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb) 9/20/16 [Total Haloacetic Acids]	N	ND	ND	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromate (ppb)				0	10	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorite (ppm)				0.8	1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine dioxide (ppb)				MRDLG = 800	MRDL = 800	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramines (ppm)				MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm)	N	0.49	0.2 - 0.8	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

*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 getting cancer.*

**Secondary Contaminants, required by the NC Public Water Supply Section, are substances that affect the taste, odor, and/or color of drinking water. These aesthetic contaminants normally do not have any health effects and normally do not affect the safety of your water.**