

CITY OF WALESKA  
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT  
2010

The City of Waleska met all water quality standards for 2010 with the exception of required monitoring for lead and copper. The City of Waleska owns and operates its own potable water distribution system, but purchases all of its water from the City of Canton and the Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority. The City of Canton and the Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority monitor for lead and copper in the water purchased by the City of Waleska, but the City of Waleska is also required by governmental regulations to monitor the water once again after it is purchased. Neither the City of Canton nor the Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority had any violations for lead and copper contamination in their water. In an effort to keep our citizens up to date on the condition of our drinking water, we have compiled this report as a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to EPA and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

**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.

**Your water is taken directly from the Etowah River** and is treated and filtered to remove several contaminants, plus the water is chlorinated to disinfect against viruses and pathogens (harmful bacteria). Fluoride is added to enhance dental protection. The levels of these two additives are monitored daily by the City of Canton and the Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority to ensure proper dosages are being added. The City of Waleska acquires water from the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority and the City of Canton which amounts to 100% of the total water sold. The Authority's and Canton's source for water is the Etowah River.

**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)**.

**Contaminants that may be present** in source water before it is treated include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and pathogens (harmful 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 agricultural and residential uses.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *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 storm water runoff and septic systems.

**Some people may be more vulnerable** to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbes are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

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

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2007 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed January 1 – December 31, 2008.

Substance Detected	Maximum Containment Level	MCLG	Level Detected in Waleska's Water	Range	Violations	Source
Turbidity (NTU) *Results as reported by: Source Water Supplier	<.5 ppm 95% samples	0.50	<.41 ppm 99.59% samples	N/A	None	Soil Runoff
Copper (ppm)	AL-1.3	1.30	Not Monitored	N/A	Failure To Monitor	Household Plumbing
Chlorine (ppm)	4	N/A	2.15	.98-2.15	None	Drinking Water Additive Used For Disinfection
Coliform (% Positive)	0%	0%	0%	N/A	None	Naturally Present In TheEnvironment
Fluoride (ppm) *Results as reported by: Source Water Supplier	4	4.00	0.89	.70-1.2	None	Water Additive for Health
Lead (ppb)	AL-15	15.00	Not Monitored	N/A	Failure To Monitor	Household Plumbing
Nitrate (ppm) *Results as reported by: Source Water Supplier	10	10.00	0.35	N/A	None	Fertilizer/ Soil Runoff
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) *Results as reported by: Source Water Supplier	60	N/A	49	26-59	None	Disinfection By-Product
Trihalomethanes (ppb) *Results as reported by: Source Water Supplier	80	N/A	70	13-50	None	Disinfection By-Product

**Turbidity** is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality.

**NTU** is the Nephelometric Turbidity Unit.

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

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

**PPM:** Parts per Million (or milligrams per liter which corresponds to one penny in \$100,000)

**PPB:** Parts per Billion (or micrograms per liter which corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000)

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 Waleska is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 (800-426-4791)** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**The City of Waleska Council** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Waleska City Hall, with the meeting beginning at 7pm. These meetings are open to the public. Please contact the City Manager, Debbie McEntyre at (770) 479-2912 for more information.