

Nicholson Water Authority

2008 Water Quality Report

What is a Water Quality Report? In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Nicholson Water Authority strives to provide our customers with high quality drinking water that surpasses the United States Environmental Protection Agency and State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division Requirements. We are pleased to provide this Water Quality Report to our customer with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality tests during the previous year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis and we are proud to provide this report for your information. **For more information, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791**

Where Does Your Water Come From? Your water comes from groundwater wells. Each of these wells, are approximately 450 ft. deep and supplied by an underground aquifer. These wells are located in well houses in your neighborhood. Our wells are protected from activities that could potentially cause contamination of this water source. Treatments are performed at each of these wells including the removal of contaminants.

Source Water Assessment: The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is required to prepare a Source Water Assessment Plan for the water supply serving this water system by the end of 2009. The purpose of the SWA is to give information about our wells and identify potential pollution sources near our wells. At this time, no SWA for our water system has been completed. Once this report is submitted to our office, it will be available to residents upon request. In the mean time, to help protect your water source:

- Make sure to keep your septic systems up to date.
- Take hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection sites.
- Limit pesticide and fertilizer use.

For more information, please contact our office or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/swap.html

Why are there “contaminants” in my 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 (EPA) 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 before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Do I need to take special precautions? 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. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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 (800-826-4791)**

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The presence of 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 done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES								
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	2.83	0	6.2	12/20/2008	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<u>Microbiological Contaminants</u>								
Total Coliform (# monthly) ((Samples<=40/month) # monthly positive samples)	0	0	0	NA		2008 Monthly	No	Naturally present in the environment.
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	# of Samples >AL	Sample		Violation	Typical Source
					Date			
<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>								
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.8	N/A		5/13/2008	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	0	15	2.7	N/A		5/13/2008	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Is My Water Safe?

Last year, as in years past, your water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State drinking water health standards. We report that our system did violate the maximum contaminant level but immediately took action to assure that your water quality was up to EPA standards.

Important Drinking Water Terms

AL - Action Level:

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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 there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs

allow for a margin of safety.

MNR - Monitored Not Required:

Monitoring is not required, but it is recommended.

NA - Not Applicable

ND - Not Detected

ppb - Parts per billion:

One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter)

ppm - Parts per million:

One part substance per million parts of water (or milligrams per liter)

pCi/L –Picocuries per liter

A measure of radioactivity

of monthly positive samples

The number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive.

About Lead: 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. Nicholson Water Authority 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 (800)-428-4791** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> .

Public Participation: The Nicholson Water Authority meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Nicholson City Hall. Residents are urged to attend and are always welcome. We encourage & appreciate questions and comments. Residents are also encouraged to stay involved with water related issues through city council meetings.

For more information please call, write, or email to:

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