



City of McDonough

2008 Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. 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.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we are occasionally required to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements may be reflected as rate structure adjustments, and we appreciate your understanding the need for these adjustments.

The City of McDonough's water source comes from the John H. Fargason Reservoir on Walnut Creek and from two (2) wells, which are drawn from a Piedmont Aquifer. The City and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of water pollution to the John H. Fargason Reservoir on Walnut Creek. 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:

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



Drinking Water Source Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- > Microbial contaminants, 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 runoff, industrial or domestic discharges, or farming.
- > Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff and residential uses.
- > Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes, gas stations, urban storm runoff and septic systems.
- > Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

What's in My Drinking Water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. 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.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. We are pleased to report our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements.

If you have any questions about this report concerning your water utility, please contact Steve Cox at (770) 692-2210. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings held at City Hall on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The City of McDonough routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2008. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

How to Read This Report

In the table below you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

ppm or mg/l: Parts per million or milligrams per liter: one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or to one penny in \$10,000.00.

Action level: The concentration of a contaminant which triggers treatment or requirements which a water system must follow.

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required treatment technique or process known to be effective in reducing the health risks of contaminants in drinking water.

TOC: Organic materials, measured as **Total Organic Carbon**.

THM (Total Trihalomethanes) : Byproducts formed when disinfectants added to drinking water to kill germs react with naturally-occurring organic matter in water.

HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) : Byproducts formed when disinfectants added to drinking water to kill germs react with naturally-occurring organic matter in water.

ppb or ug/l: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter: one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or to one penny in \$10,000,000.00.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The "maximum allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLG's (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) as allowed for a margin of safety.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit): Measurement of the clarity of water.



Water Quality Data

Microbiological Contaminants

Substance	MCL	MCLG	City of McDonough Maximum	Detected Range	Violations	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	No	Naturally occurring
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	0%	0%	0%	0%	No	Human & Animal Waste
Turbidity (NTU)	1 NTU	100%≤0.3	0.16	0.03 - 0.16	No	Agriculture, Geology

Inorganic Contaminants

Fluoride (ppm)	4.0	4.0	1.29	0 - 1.29	No	Naturally occurring, Additive for stronger teeth
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	2.7	0.04 - 2.7	No	Fertilizer runoff, leaching from septic tanks

Disinfection Contaminants

Substance	MCL	MCLG	City of McDonough Maximum	Detected Range	Violations	Typical Source of Contamination
TTHM's (ppb)	80	N/A	77.4	22.5 - 77.4	No	By-product of Chlorination
HAA5's (ppb)	60	N/A	24	10.8 - 24	No	

Organic Contaminants

TOC (ppm)	(TT)	TT≥35%	2.1	1.3 - 2.1	No	Naturally occurring
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Lead & Copper

Substance	Action Level	City of McDonough 90th Percentile	Detected Range	Violations	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	15.0	0	0 - 3.9	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	1300	270	0 - 410	No	

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a 1 in 1 million chance of having the described health effect.

Notice to Immuno-Compromised Individuals

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, persons 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 (1-800-426-4791).

The City of McDonough received no exceptions/violations from the EPD in 2008

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 McDonough Water System 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/safewater/lead>.



City of McDonough
136 Keys Ferry Street
McDonough, GA 30253



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Did You Know?

- > Over 401,240,000 gallons of water were treated and pumped to the distribution system in 2008
- > 98% of the water treated came from the surface water plant and 2% from the groundwater wells
- > Operators are licensed by the State of Georgia and must meet continuous training and educational requirements
- > You can refill an 8 ounce glass of water approximately 7,000 times for the same cost of a 6-pack of soft drinks

CITY OF MCDONOUGH

MAYOR
Billy Copeland

**COUNCIL
MEMBERS**
Monta Brown
Gail Notti
Gina Riffey
Wayne Smith
Rufus Stewart
Sandra Vincent

CITY CLERK
Janis Price

**CITY
ADMINISTRATOR**
Billy Beckett

**IMPORTANT
NUMBERS**

Customer Service
770-957-3915

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770-692-2210

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scox@mcDonough-ga.gov