

# **2023 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

## ***Appalachee Point Water System***

Oconee County BOC is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Appalachee Point Water System. This report is designed to give you information about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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, as well as water conservation, while continuing to service the needs of all our water users.

The Appalachee Point Water System gets water from two municipal groundwater wells. These wells are approximately 400 feet to 500 feet deep and commonly draw from crystalline formations. These properties are protected by County Ordinances which prohibit certain types of activities that could contaminate the water sources. Our Wellhead Protection Plan is on file at the Water Quality Lab in Watkinsville, this plan is also the Source Water Assessment Plan for the Appalachee Pointe Water System. Water treatment, disinfecting with chlorine, is performed at each of these sites. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, samples are pulled on a regular basis as required by the EPA and sent to the State of Georgia EPD Laboratories in Atlanta for testing.

**During the period of January through December, 2023, we had 2 Lead and Copper samples that were considered non-compliant with Federal Guidelines. Given these 2 samples, EPD sent out a representative to take water source samples (Appalachee Pointe Well) and tested them for Lead and Copper. The source water samples that were tested revealed that the source water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. We will continue to test to help the consumer resolve the issue. Corrosion of household plumbing is most often the source of these non-compliant samples. On the last set of samples in September, ALL SAMPLES came back safe and within Federal Guidelines.**

We want to keep you informed regarding the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are in compliance with all drinking water regulations including, but not limited to, required monitoring of chlorine levels and record keeping.

For more information about this report or concerning your water utility, please

contact Tim Rice at 706-769-3960. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions, you are invited to attend the Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting. They are held on the first and last Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at Oconee County Courthouse. Your participation and comments are welcome at these meeting.

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 the 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.

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 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 human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- 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 or metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm 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.
- 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 that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Appalachee Pointe Water System routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. All drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents.

It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Non-Detects (ND)* – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*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.

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

*Action Level* – 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 the drinking water.

*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.

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 one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Regulated substances *not listed* below *were not* found in your drinking water.

Detected Substance	Units	MCLG	MCL	Amount Detected	Range Detected	Sample Date	Is it within Standards	Probable Source
Lead	ppb	0	AL=15	16.4	5.3-180	2023	YES	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	.27	0-0	2023	YES	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Chlorine	ppm	4.0	4.0	.72	.52-1.03	2023	YES	Added for Disinfection
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	1.0	.72 -.72	6/2023	YES	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage

**Lead in drinking water.** 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 Appalachee Pointe 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>.

We work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

The Water System ID number for the Appalachee Pointe Water System is 2190067