

**Board of Public Works Water
Exceeds all Treatment Standards**

The Gaffney Board of Public Works (BPW) is pleased to present our 2009 Water Quality Report. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. These standards protect consumers from waterborne disease organisms and harmful chemicals. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provides the same public health protection. In accordance with EPA and DHEC regulations, thousands of tests are conducted every year in our DHEC-certified laboratory.

On an annual basis, the EPA requires water systems provide customers with water quality information. The table presented shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. As you review this report, you will find where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. We are very happy to report your drinking water surpasses all Federal and State treatment standards. The BPW is committed to providing you with the safest, most reliable water supply possible. We continue to believe that informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Kim Fortner at (864) 488-8800.

You can also learn more about the Board of Public Works by attending any of our regularly scheduled board meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 9 am at the Operations Center located at 210 East Frederick Street or by visiting our website at www.gaffneybpw.com.

Terms and Abbreviations

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 best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level 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 contamination.

RAA: Running Annual Average

ppm (Parts per Million): This is the same as milligrams per liter or one penny out of \$10,000.

ppb (Parts per Billion): This is the same as micrograms per liter or one penny out of \$10,000,000.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant: Any substance dissolved or suspended in water. Contaminants may be natural or result from the activities of people. Many contaminants are not harmful at all, and others are harmful only if present above a certain level.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Units of measure to indicate water clarity.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN BPW DRINKING WATER

Substance	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Levels Detected	Date of Sample	Was MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Turbidity	<0.3 NTU	TT=1 NTU	Avg=0.054	0.029-0.119	2009	No	Soil Runoff
		TT= % of samples equal or below 0.3 NTU	99.90%	NA			
Nitrate	0	10 ppm	0.18 ppm	0.18 ppm	2009	No	Naturally occurring and fertilizer runoff
Mercury	0	2 ppb	0.46 ppb	0.46 ppb	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits Runoff from landfills and cropland.
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT >1.0	Level Removed 35% Required	Range %	Quarterly in 2009	No	Naturally occurring
Victor Gaffney *Cherokee not ran in 2009			50.20%	33.7-67.1%			

DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS MEASURED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Substance	MRDLG MCLG	MRDL MCL	Average Level Detected	Levels Detected	Date of Sample	Was MRLD or MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.39 ppm	1.09-1.85	2009	No	Additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	<80 ppb	80 ppb	43 ppb RAA	21.5-76.1	2009	No	By-product of Chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	<60 ppb	60 ppb	45 ppb RAA	28.1-58.4	2009	No	By-product of Disinfection

LEAD AND COPPER COMPLIANCE

Substance	MRDLG MCLG	MRDL MCL	90th Percentile	Levels Detected	Date of Sample	Was MCL Exceeded?	Typical Source
Copper, Free	0 ppb	AL=1.3 ppm	0.076 0>AL	None Detected- 0.094	6/1/09- 9/30/09	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	0 ppb	AL=0.015 ppm	0	None Detected	6/1/09- 9/30/09	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits

Where does our water come from?

In general, the sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. The BPW draws water from Lake Whelchel and the Broad River. Lake Whelchel is fed by Cherokee and Allison Creeks. Water is also pumped from the Broad River into Lake Whelchel.

How is my water treated?

Raw water flows from Lake Whelchel to the BPW water treatment plants located on Filter Plant Road. Chemicals are mixed with the raw water to promote the removal of naturally occurring minerals and metals and to eliminate taste and odor. The water then moves to the sedimentation basins where particles settle removing dirt, microbes and contaminants as they settle. Filters remove fine particles and chlorine is added as a disinfectant. The treatment plant is rigidly maintained and monitored by the BPW State Certified Treatment Plant Operators.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general populations. Immune 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 for 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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. We 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/asfewater/lead>.

What's in our water?

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 activities.

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.

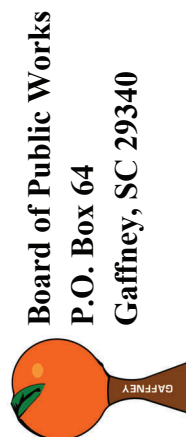
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

DHEC conducted a source water assessment for the Board of Public Works system. The goal of the assessment was to assess the sources of potential contaminants and implement preventative measures to keep both groundwater and surface water from becoming contaminated instead of relying solely on treatment to provide safe drinking water. The state source water assessment included a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can enter the Boards' source waters. Our source water assessment is available for your review at www.scdhec.gov/water/html/srcwtr.html.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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Board of Public Works



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