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City of Cordele

# 2012 Water Quality Report

City of Cordele Water Quality Excels.

February 7, 2013

The City of Cordele Utilities Control & Treatment Department is pleased to report that your community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and the Environmental Protection Agency during the previous year. The 2012 Water Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality testing during the previous year. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis, and are proud to provide the enclosed information.

Your water comes from six municipal groundwater wells, approximately 500 - 600 ft. deep. The wells are located on property owned by the City, and are protected from activities which could potentially cause contamination of water sources. Water is drawn from the Ocala, Tallahatta, and Wilcox Aquifers. Treatment is performed at each well, which includes chlorine disinfection and the addition of fluoride.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to include 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 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 systems 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 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 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 agricultural and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- 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.

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

### **Water Quality Data**

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2012 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Analyses are performed daily for chlorine and fluoride. More than 200 bacteriological samples were performed during 2012, and all tests passed. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 - December 31, 2012. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

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 Cordele 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>.

### Terms and Abbreviations:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** “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.”
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** “The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.”
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** “The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.”
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** “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 contaminants.”
- **Action Level (AL):** “The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.”
- **n/a** : not applicable
- **nd** : not detectable at testing limit
- **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/l) One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in 10 million dollars.
- **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) One part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10,000 dollars.

<u>METALS</u>	AL	MCLG	CITY OF CORDELE SAMPLE DATA	NUMBER OF SITES FOUND ABOVE THE ACTION LEVEL	SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Lead</b>	15 µg/l (ppb)	zero	3.4 µg/l (ppb)	None	September 2011	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures.
<b>Copper</b>	1300 µg/l (ppb)	1300µg/l (ppb)	110 µg/l (ppb)	None	September 2011	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures.

<u>INORGANICS</u>	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	CITY OF CORDELE SYSTEM DATA	SAMPLE RANGE	IS IT SAFE? DOES IT MEET STANDARDS?	SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Fluoride</b>	4.0 mg/l (ppm)	4.0 mg/l (ppm)	0.73 mg/l (ppm)	0.50mg/l (ppm) – 1.04 mg/l (ppm)	YES	2012 Yearly Average	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth.
<b>Nitrate</b>	10000 µg/l (ppb)	10000 µg/l (ppb)	890 µg/l (ppb)	ND-890 µg/l (ppb)	YES	04/30/2012	Animal waste, Fertilizer, Natural deposits, Septic Tanks
<b>Chlorine</b>	(4.0 mg/l)	(4.0 mg/l)	0.82 mg/l (ppm)	0.20 mg/l- 1.40 mg/l (ppm)	YES	2012 Yearly Average	Added for disinfection

<u>ORGANICS</u>	MCL	MCLG	CITY OF CORDELE SYSTEM DATA	SAMPLE RANGE	IS IT SAFE? DOES IT MEET STANDARDS?	SAMPLE DATE	TYPICAL SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</b>	100 µg/l (ppb)	N/A	14.7 µg/l (ppb) Yearly Avg.	2.3 - 26.60 µg/l (ppb)	YES	2012 Quarterly	By-product of drinking water chlorination process.
<b>Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)</b>	60 µg/l (ppb)	N/A	1.05 µg/l (ppb) Yearly Avg.	ND – 4.40 µg/l (ppb)	YES	2012 Quarterly	By-product of drinking water chlorination process.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS	MCL	MCLG	CITY OF CORDELE SYSTEM DATA	SAMPLE RANGE	SAMPLE DATE	Comments
<b>Chloroform</b>	N/A	N/A	1.1 µg/l (ppb)	ND – 1.1 µg/l (ppb)	6/23/2011	The City of Cordele monitors for unregulated contaminants in order to assist EPA in determining where certain contaminants occur and whether additional regulations may be necessary.
<b>Bromodichloro- methane</b>	N/A	N/A	0.83 µg/l (ppb)	ND – 0.83 µg/l (ppb)	6/23/2011	

The City of Cordele has been issued a monitoring waiver through December 31, 2013 for SOC's (synthetic organic compounds). A monitoring waiver has been issued for Arsenic, Asbestos, and Cyanide through December 31, 2013. This means that these contaminants were not detected and are not expected to be found in the future. The City's water was tested for Dioxin and none was detected.

The City of Cordele Utilities Control & Treatment Department is committed to delivering the highest quality drinking water possible to consumers. For more information about your water or this report, please call Debbie Wright at 229-273-2829, 8am - 4pm. The Cordele City Commission meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public. The City of Cordele urges all customers to use water wisely.

