

## **Water Quality Report (2011) City of Plains, Georgia ID # GA2610004**

City of Plains 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 Protective Agency during the previous year. Questions concerning our water should be directed to City Hall or Charles Smith at 229-942-7456.

### **Is Our Drinking Water Safe?**

YES. This report will show the results of many tests that are performed to insure that our customers receive safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis to EPD Standards.

### **Where Does Our Water Come From?**

Our well pumps from the shallow unconfined Claibourne Aquifer. The Claibourne Aquifer ranges in depth from 75 to 90 feet below ground level.

### **Public Participation Opportunities**

Questions or comments concerning the water system can be submitted to City Hall or by calling Charles Smith.

### **Availability of Source Water Assessments and Information on Potential Watershed contaminants**

A copy of your Watershed Assessment can be obtained by calling the Albany, Georgia Environmental Protection Department at 229-430-4144

### **Additional Health Information**

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, (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. 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 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 from other microbial contaminants are available from the 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 the water source before we treat it include:**

*Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wild life.

*Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

*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 runoff and septic tanks.

*Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

*Radioactive contaminants* can be naturally occurring or can 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 which limit the amount 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.

**Additional Information**

Tests for the regulated and unregulated contaminants in our Drinking Water Reports show no contamination.

**Additional Community and Educational Information About Our Water System**

Our water system strives to maintain the highest standard of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our entire community. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in your water rate structure. Please help us keep these costs as low as possible by using good water conservation practices such as checking your home for leaks and installing low flow appliances.

Parameter (units)	MCL	MCLG	Plains Water System Results	Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coli form	1	1	0	monthly	No	naturally present in the environment
Fluoride ( ppm )	4	4	.88 ppm yearly average	daily	No	erosion on natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.48 ppm yearly average	daily	No	water additive to control microbes

### Information About Violation

We had no major violations for 2011. All samples test were well within acceptable range.

Parameter (units)	Action Level	MCLG	Plains Water System Results	# of sites found above the Action Level	Violation No/Yes	Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead/ ppm	15 mg/l	0	0.2 mg/l	0	yes	Sep./2008	corrosion of household plumbing
Copper/ppm	1.3 mg/l	1.3	0.0025 mg/l	0	yes	Sep./2008	corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate/Nitrite	10 mg/L	10	0.2 mg/l	0	No	Oct./2010	fertilizer and sepiit tanks
TTHM	80 mg/l	80	0.0021 ug/l	0	No	Oct-09	byproduct from disinfection

### Definitions of Terms and Abbreviations Used in this Report

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** “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 (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.”

**Action Level:** “The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.”

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** “The level of a disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.”

**(ppm): Parts per million**