City of West Point

CS2850002

March 2009

2008 Water Quality Report

The City of West Point is an equal opportunity employer.
Funding for water service improvements is made in part by Federal Funding.

Member: Georgia Rural Water Association, American Waterworks Association, Georgia Association of Water Professional

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the Water System of the City of West Point. It meets the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to our community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have any questions, call Sammy Inman at (706) 645-3545 or Richard Fuller at (706) 645-3546. Watershed Assessment results are also available.

The Bottom Line: Is The Water Safe to Drink? **Absolutely.**

The source of the raw (untreated) water for our system is the Chattahoochee River. Since water is taken directly from the river it is considered a surface water supply.

Activities of the Water System are governed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. They meet the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of West Point City Hall. Your attendance and participation is welcomed at these meetings.

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 other microbial 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 from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 wildlife.
- *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.
- *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 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.

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. West Point 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.

WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2006 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2006. EPD 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, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations used below:

- **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 to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Action level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **n/a:** not applicable ··**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter ·**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Units** (NTU): Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water Entering Distribution System							
Substance	MCL	MCLG	West Point Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Violation	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (PPM)	4	4	2.3	1.5-2.3	no	2008	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (PPM)	4	4	1	.8-1.2	no	2008	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Total Organic Carbon (PPM)	TT	N/A	1.9	1.3-1.9	no	2008	Naturally present in the environment
Filtered Turbidity (NTU)	TT=2NTU TT = % of samples <0.3 NTU	N/A 100%	0.25 100%	N/A N/A	no	2008	Soil runoff and erosion
Microbiological Contaminant Substances Detected in Treated Water at the Tap							
Substance	MCL	MCLG	West Point Water System Maximum	Detected Range	Violations	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	>5% Positive	0% Positive	2% Positive	0% Positive	no	2008	Naturally occuring
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	>5% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	0% Positive	no	2008	Human and animal waste
Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water at the Tap							
Substance	MCL	MCLG	West Point Water System 90th Percentile	Number of Samples Above AL	Violations	Sample Date	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (PPB)	15	N/A	4.6	0	no	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (PPM)	1.3	N/A	0.26	0	no	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing