# City of Sandersville

# 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

# Quality of Your Drinking Water

# Drinking Water System #3030005

# Introduction

This report is provided to inform you about the source and quality of your drinking water, and how it compares to national drinking water standards. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Please take a moment to review this important information.

# Water Source

The City of Sandersville pumps ground water from the Southeastern Coastal Plain Aquifer. Six wells located throughout the City pump water to three water treatment plants.

# Water Treatment

Raw water or water pumped from the ground is received at the water treatment plants. It is aerated and then chemicals are added to improve the quality of the water. A phosphate blend is added to reduce iron and manganese. Fluoride is added to promote good dental health. Finally chlorine is introduced to disinfect the water and destroy any pathogenic organisms. A high quality drinking water is pumped into the distribution system.

# Basic Information

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 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 byproducts 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.

# Vulnerability

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

# Impurities in the Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. The presence of impurities does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about impurities and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

# Lead

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. This utility 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 Testing

Because of the numerous potential sources and varieties of impurities, state and federal law mandates the routine testing for all impurities (over 80) known to pose a risk to public health. Some impurities can affect water sources quickly and others are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Thus, testing schedules also vary from monthly to once every nine years, depending on risk and the impurity tested. Your water system is routinely monitored for all applicable hazardous impurities. However, of those impurities, only those detected in routine testing are listed in the Detected Impurities table.

# Source Water Assessment

The City water supply is withdrawn from the Southeastern Coastal Plain Aquifer by six wells that pump to one of three water treatment facilities for treatment and distribution. The water producing layers within the aquifer consist of fine to coarse sands with confining units of silt, clay and occasionally chalk.

The water quality in the aquifer is generally characterized by increased concentrations of constituents as the water flows downgradient away from recharge areas toward the coast. The increased concentration of constituents is due to the dissolution of the aquifer minerals and mixing with the saltwater near the coast. The water available from this aquifer in Sandersville generally contains low concentrations of dissolved solids and chloride, but moderate levels of iron and manganese that leach from the minerals found in the aquifer matrix.

The groundwater produced by the six wells is regulated under the Georgia Wellhead Protection Plan. The plan identifies possible pollution sources which may lead to groundwater contamination. The plan also gives guidelines on how to eliminate potential threats and manage the areas that will have an impact on the groundwater usage. A copy of this plan can be obtained from the Public Works Office at 478-552-3459.

| **TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Impurity** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Level Found** | **Range of Detection** | **Violation** | **Sample Date** | **Major Source** |
| Temperature °C | RL=0 | N/A | 26.6 | N/A | No | 2019 | |
| **INORGANIC CHEMICALS** | | | | | | | |
| **Contaminant (Units)** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Reporting Level** | **Level Found** | **Violation** | **Sample Date** | **Major Source** |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4.0 | 4.0 | 0 | 0.36 – 0.59 | No | 2019 | Water additive that promotes strong teeth |
| Iron (ppb) | 300 | N/A | 0 | 340.0 | No | 2019 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Manganese (ppb) | 50 | N/A | 0 | 36.0 | No | 2019 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Sodium (ppb) | N/A | N/A | 0 | 2700.0 | No | 2019 | Natural deposits |
| Residual Chlorine (ppm) | MRDL=4 | MRDLG=4 | 0 | 1.0 | No | 2019 | Water additive to control microbes |
| **DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS** | | | | | | | |
| **Disinfection By-products** | **MCL** | **MCLG** | **Highest Level Detected** | **Violation** | **Test Dates** | **Likely sources** | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb) | 80 | N/A | 2.1 | No | 2019 | By-product of drinking water disinfection | |
| Chloroform (ppb) | N/A | RL=1.0 | 1.0 | No | 2019 | By-product of drinking water disinfection | |
| Bromodichloromethane (ppb) | 4.0 | RL=0 | 1.1 | No | 2019 | By-product of drinking water | |
| **LEAD AND COPPER** | | | | | | | |
| Lead and Copper | MCLG | Action Level | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Violation | Likely Sources | |
| Copper (ppm) Sample Date: 9/6/2017 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.89 | 0 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing. | |

| Radiological | MCL | Level Detected |
|---|---|---|
| Combined Radium (-226 & -228) | 5 pCi/L | 1.42 - 2.40 pCi/L |

## Definitions and Terms

### MCL

(Maximum Contaminant Level) The highest level of an impurity allowable in drinking water.

### MCLG

(Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) The amount of an impurity below which there is no known or expected health risk.

### AL

(Action Level) The concentration of an impurity which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

### TT

(Treatment Technique) A required process intended to reduce the level of an impurity in drinking water.

### PPM

(Parts Per Million) This measure corresponds to one penny out of $10,000 or one minute out of about 2 years. 1 ppm is essentially one millionth of the total water volume.

### Mg/L

(Milligrams per Liter) This is another way of displaying PPM. See PPM for a definition.

### PPB

(Parts per Billion) This measure corresponds to one penny out of $10,000,000 or one minute out of about 2000 years. 1 ppb is essentially one billionth of the total water volume.

### µg/L

(Micrograms per Liter) This is another way of displaying PPB. See PPB for a definition.

### pCi/L

(Picocuries per Liter) This is a unit of radioactivity corresponding to one decay every 27 seconds in a volume of one liter, or 0.037 decays per second in every liter of air.

### NTU

(Nephelometric Turbidity Units) This is a precise measurement of how cloudy the water is. The higher the number, the cloudier the water is.

## Maintenance & Emergency

In case of emergencies contact Seaborn Street, Water and Sewer Superintendent at 478-232-7159.

## System Contact

**Sandersville Public Water System Identification (PWSID)** 3030005

**Address**

City of Sandersville
Office of Public Works
141 W. Haynes St.
Sandersville, GA 31082

**Phone** 478-552-3459

## Operator Contacts

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**Water and Wastewater Superintendent**
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