

Harris County Water Works Annual Water Quality Report Year 2023

11505 GA HWY 315 CATAULA, GA 31804 (706) 324-1175

(This report includes data collected between January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)
(D.N.R. W.S.I.D. No. GA1450011)

Source of Water

Harris County has three water sources consisting of, one surface water source and two purchased water sources.

1. Water is pumped from the Chattahoochee River at Lake Harding and treated at Harris County Water Filtration Plant on Bartletts Ferry Road.
2. During periods of high demand water is purchased from the City of Columbus which pumps water from the Chattahoochee River at Lake Oliver.
3. A small part of the distribution system is supplied by water purchased from Talbot County who is supplied by the City of Manchester & Columbus Water Works. The City of Manchester gets water from a large surface water reservoir.

Treatment Process

The treatment process for surface water may vary depending upon the facility and withdrawal point. Alum is usually added to the water taken from the river or reservoir to cause the finely divided mud particles to clump together so that the mud and other particles will settle out. The clear water is then filtered and disinfected with Chlorine to make the water biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding Soda Ash. Phosphate is added to make the water non-corrosive. Fluoride is added to help prevent dental cavities.

Storage and Distribution

The treated drinking water is pumped to a one million gallon storage tank located at Mt. Hill School. From there it is pumped to the various tanks throughout the distribution system. The majority of distribution mains are PVC pipe, and are flushed frequently to keep them free of mineral sediments and dissolved air.

For more information contact
David Hamby
Water Plant Supervisor
(706) 324-1175

Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water

We are pleased to report to you that the drinking water supplied by the Harris County Water Works is safe. The tables inside show that the drinking water in Harris County gets an excellent report when compared to health standards.

All 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 (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 the following:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that 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 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 that 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.

Drinking Water Analysis for Period January-December, 2023
Regulated Substances

Substances tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Amount Detected in water from Harris County Filter Plant	Range of Detection	Amount Detected in water purchased from Columbus	Range of Detection	Amount Detected in water purchased from Talbot County	Range of Detection	Is it safe? (Does it meet standards)	Probable Sources in Drinking Water	Possible Health Effects
Copper See Note (b)	ppb	1.3	Al = 1.3	280	9.10 -- 420	160	0 out of 50 sites sampled year, 2022	61.6	N/R	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.
Fluoride See note (a)	ppm	4	4	0.78	0.34 -- 1.15	.61	0.44 -- 0.70	N/R	N/R	Yes	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	Some who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.
Lead See Note (b)	ppb	0	AL = 15	3.2	0 -- 5.7	1.8	1 out of 50 sites sampled year, 2022	2.7	N/R	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	.47	NR	.50	.39 -- .60	N/R	N/R	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.
Turbidity	NTU	0	TT = 1 NTU TT - % of samples < 0.3 NTU	0.07 -- 99.99%	0.02 -- 0.50	0.05 -- 100%	0.02 -- 0.09	N/R --	N/A	Yes	Soil Runoff	Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites and can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	2.03	0.74 -- 3.04	2.30	1.06 -- 2.90	N/R	N/R	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes	Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritation effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	TT	TT	1.7	1.3 -- 1.7	1.7	1.4 -- 2.0	N/R	N/R	Yes	Naturally present in the environment	Considered a precursor to disinfection by-products such as Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids. The effects of these by-products are shown below.
Trihalomethanes, Total See note (c)	ppb	N/A	80	49.2	25.4 -- 72.4	60	29.0 -- 66.0	68	17.9 -- 86.4	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Haloacetic Acids 5, Total See Note (c)	ppb	N/A	60	28.65	13.8 -- 53	43	21 -- 48.0	28	11.8 -- 50	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acid in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Coliform (Bacteria)	%	0	>1 HC TC >5% Monthly Samples.	0	0 --	0.51%	1 of 195 samples	N/R	N/R	Yes	Naturally present in the environment.	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.
Chlorite	ppm	0.8	1	N/A	N/A	.14	.04 -- .32	N/R	N/R	Yes	By Product of Drinking Water Disinfection	Some people who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Harris County Water Works has participated in the Middle Chattahoochee River Watershed Study. This study was prepared to provide water quality data and other pertinent information to produce a Source Water Protection Plan in accordance to rules and regulations required by the United States Environmental Protection Division.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs (SWAPs) provide for a more secure and safe drinking water supply. This plan was achieved in four steps: delineation of the assessment area, inventory of potential contaminant sources, assessment of a water supply's susceptibility to the potential pollutants, and development of protection strategies. Regional protection measures include a proposed organization for policy development, monitoring and communication networks within the Middle Chattahoochee River Watershed.

The scope for this project includes all major surface water systems along the Chattahoochee River Watershed between West Point Dam and the City of Columbus, Georgia, including:

Harris County Water Works, Cataula Georgia
Columbus Water Works, Columbus Georgia
City of West Point, West Point, Georgia
Chattahoochee Valley Water Supply District, Lanett, Alabama
Opelika Water Works, Opelika, Alabama
Smiths Water and Sewer Authority, Smiths, Alabama
Phenix City Utilities, Phenix City, Alabama

Harris County Water Works has 107 potential pollution sources. Less than 3% of these sources have a medium-high priority for potential pollution. The remaining sources have a low or medium priority. Harris County Water System's overall susceptibility score is low. All but one of the medium-high priority potential pollution sources are Water/Waste Water facilities, and they have permits to discharge by their regulatory agencies. The remaining medium-high priority potential pollution source has a low Release Duration/Frequency potential for pollution.

This plan is available for review at the Harris County Water Works office at: 11505 Ga Hwy 315 Cataula, Georgia 31804, or call (706) 324-1175 for more information.

We try to protect our water supplies and consumers by some of the following methods:

- Harris County Water Works employees and local law enforcement are aware of the potential for vandalism and constantly monitor all water storage tank accesses, including fences, to insure that they are properly secured.
- Requiring prior notification before allowing access to the Water Filter Plant to persons other than employees of the Harris County Water Works.
- Monitoring the water quality on a frequent basis all over the distribution system.
- Cooperation with other water departments and utilities to help prevent water loss or contamination.

How Can You Help?

1. Notify the Water Works of any unauthorized tampering of your metering equipment or use of fire hydrants.
2. Notify the Water Works of any unusual water quality conditions such as tastes and odors or unusual colors or particles.
3. Have your hot water heater flushed and test the pressure relief valve annually.

Together we can work to keep our water supply safe to drink for now and in the future.

CONSERVING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Outdoor Water Use Information

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010. We are currently under non-drought conditions. It allows daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

The following outdoor water uses also are allowed daily at any time of the day by anyone:

- Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section 1-3-3;
- Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
- Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
- Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
- Irrigation of personal food gardens;
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
- Hand-watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
- Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
- Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
- Hydro-seeding.

You can access more information on the internet at:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/non-drought-outdoor-water-use-schedule>

Information on Waviers granted by Georgia Environmental Protection Division for Harris County Drinking Water Monitoring.

As authorized by Georgia EPD, our system has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentration of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

On November 9th 2022, The GA EPD granted Harris County Water Works a waiver to monitor for:

All synthetic organic compounds (SOCs): Alachor, Aldicarb Sulfone, Aldicarb Sulfoxide, Atrazine, Benzo (A) Pyrene, Charbofuran, Chloradane, Dalapon, Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate, Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), Dinoseb, Diquat, Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene Dibromide (EDB), Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxymyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Simazine, 2, 4-D, Toxaphene, 2,4 5 -TP (Silvex), 2,3,7,8 - TCDD (Dioxin).

and the Inorganic Compounds – Asbestos and Cyanide.

This waiver is in effect from January 1, 2023 until December 31, 2025.

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES & UCMR5 Sample Year – 2023

Substances tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Amount detected in water from Harris County	Range of Detection	Amount detected in water purchased from Columbus	Range of Detection	Amount detected in water purchased from Talbot County	Range of Detection	Is it safe does it meet standards	Probable Sources in Drinking Water
Sodium	ppb	None	None	16,000	No Range	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Water Treatment Chemical for Alkalinity & pH Adjustment
Chloroform	ppb	None	None	30	No Range	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Byproduct of Disinfection
Bromdichloromethane,	ppb	None	None	9.2	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Byproduct of Disinfection
Chlorodibromomethane	ppb	None	None	2.8	No Range	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Byproduct of Disinfection
PFOA	ppt	None	4	5.33	4.60 – 5.80	7.12	2.2 – 19	N/R	N/R	Yes	Man made compound used in products and manufacturing
PFOS	ppt	None	4	6.31	5.30 – 7.30	5.08	1.8 – 1.7	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Man made compound used in products and manufacturing
PFPeA	ppt	None	4	5.60	3.70 – 7.00	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Man made compound used in products and manufacturing
PFHxA	ppt	None	4	5.06	3.50 – 6.10	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Man made compound used in products and manufacturing
PFBS	ppt	None	4	4.10	3.00 – 4.90	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	Not Established	Man made compound used in products and manufacturing

How to read the report

WORD, ACRONYM, SYMBOL, or NOTE	DEFINITION
AL	Action Level means the concentration of a substance that triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum contaminant level or Maximum Allowed is the highest amount of a substance (contaminant) allowed in drinking water by the EPA.
MCLG	Maximum contaminant level goal or Goal is the ideal goal, below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants
ml	Milliliter or one-thousandth of a liter. One liter = slightly more than a quart.
N/A	Not Applicable
N/D	Not Detected
N/R	Not Reported
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity units , a unit of measurement of water turbidity based on scattered light.
ppm	Parts per million means 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligram per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10 thousand, or 1 pound of contaminant per million pounds of water.
ppb	Parts per billion means 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as microgram per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years, or 1 penny in \$10 million, or 1 pound of contaminant per billion pounds of water.
ppt	Parts per trillion means 1 part per 1, 000,000,000,000
TT	Treatment technique means a required treatment technique or process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
UCMR5	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5
(a)	Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million (see definition of ppm).
(b)	Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. Most of our distribution piping is made of PVC (plastic) pipe. However under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes of lead-soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means that the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels if flushed momentarily.
(c)	These levels are based on a system-wide 4-quarter running average of several samples analyzed on each of the entry points reported, as required by EPA testing protocol. Talbot county reported 3 rd & 4 th quarter locational running annual average TTHM's exceeded the MCL. This water is supplied to a limited area of Harris County at the melody lakes subdivision.
<	Less than
>	More than

INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH

In 1992, we began monitoring for lead & copper contaminants in the drinking water as required by the USEPA. Every year since that time we have been collecting samples from at least 20 sites or more, the samples were analyzed for lead & copper by the Georgia EPD lab. The required action level for lead must be below 15 micrograms per liter and copper must be below 1300 micrograms per liter in 90 % of the samples taken. Because of this monitoring and our water treatment corrosion control program, we have met the required action level.

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. Harris County Water Works 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>. Harris County Water Works is not certified or equipped to do lead and copper analysis.

Go with the Flow!



**HARRIS COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT
11505 GA HWY 315
CATAULA GA 31804**

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbus, GA 31907
Permit No. 370**

Return Service Requested

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER DEPARTMENT

Harris County Water Works mission is to provide a constant safe, clean water supply by maintaining an efficient water plant, distribution system and office, with a well trained staff who are dedicated to providing our customers the best water supply that we can.

The operation of the Harris County Water Department is conducted under the direction of the Harris County Board of Commissioners. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings at 7 P.M. on the first and third Tuesday of the each month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at the Harris County Court House located in the City of Hamilton, GA.

The Water Department is located at 11505 GA Hwy. 315 in Cataula, Georgia, 31804. The office is open between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. You may call (706) 324-1175 during business hours to speak to one of our personnel. After hours, the answering service will report any emergency to the appropriate personnel.

Safe drinking water is very important to any community and Harris County Water Works is committed to keeping the county's water supply safe for all. Harris County Water Works continually monitors and tests the county's water supply to ensure its safety and to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements.

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated additional monitoring and testing of all public water systems serving populations of 3,300 or more regarding currently unregulated Perfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is ensuring that all Georgia public water systems understand and comply with EPA's additional water testing mandates regarding PFAS.

You can find our public notice detailing what PFAS is, how PFAS is measured, results of water testing in Harris County, what the county is doing about PFAS, and links to additional information regarding PFAS in Georgia at:
<https://www.harriscountyga.gov/2023/09/>

Additional Information Sources

<p>Environmental Protection Division Georgia Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program 205 Butler Street, Floyd Towers East, Suite 1362 Atlanta, Georgia 30334 (404)-656-2750 Web site www.ganet.org/dnr</p>	<p>Georgia Association of Water Professionals 1655 Enterprise Way Marietta, GA 30067 Phone: (770) 618-8690 Fax: (770) 618-8695</p>
<p>American Water Works Association 6666 West Quincy Avenue Denver, Colorado (303) 794-7711 Web site www.awwa.org</p>	<p>Georgia Rural Water Association P.O. Box 383 Barnesville, GA 30204 Phone: 770.358.0221 Email: grwa1@grwa.org</p>
<p>Water Wiser Web site www.waterwiser.org</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Division, Drinking Water Hotline 1(800) 426-4791, www.epa.gov/safewater</p>

Be good to the Environment!

For additional information about the quality of your drinking water, or additional copies of this report call the Harris County Water Department at (706) 324-1175