

NEWSLINE

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Fort Valley

Utility Commission

Since 1891

500 Anthoine Street

Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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www.fvutil.com

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CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Commissioners

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Robert Dickey

Keytrick Jones

Stephen Lindsey

Ned Watson

Darrel West

Mayor Jeffery Lundy

*The Commission meets the second
Monday of each month at
6:00 p.m.*



July 2022

Editor: Martha McAfee

FVUC RECEIVES ACCOLADES FOR EXCELLENCE

Fort Valley Utility Commission has earned a **Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)**[®] designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service. The RP3 designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"I think over the last year or so, we've seen the vital importance of running a reliable and safe utility," says Aaron Haderle, Chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel and Manager of Transmission and Distribution Operations at Kissimmee Utility Authority, Florida. "The utilities receiving the RP3 designation have proven that they are committed to running a top-notch public power utility by implementing industry best practices."

"We couldn't be prouder to be honored with this designation," said Clay Walker, General Manager. "This is the culmination of a lot of work from a lot of people who really care about powering our community. But this designation is not a final destination. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our operations and service to our customers."

The Commission is also once again the recipient of the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)**. Awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the organization and its management.

"Our Director of Financial and Administrative Services Cathy Johnson and her team go that extra mile to prepare our annual financial report and we are pleased with the results," said Alre' Horton, Chairman of the Commission. "They spend tireless hours throughout the year ensuring that our finances are in order."

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards. The panel includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals. GFOA established the CAFR program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.



From the General Manager's Desk...

The recent announcement by Governor Brian Kemp regarding the State's purchase of a megasite in Peach County has the entire state buzzing about the potential growth for Peach County and all of the surrounding areas. In this Newsline edition, we have included the press release issued by the Governor's Office regarding the purchase. This potential growth brings to the forefront all of the pieces that must be pulled together to make any project that may locate on the megasite a success. We are excited about the role that the Commission will play in the development of the site.

For the past year or so, we have been assessing our current infrastructure to determine what level of major growth we can support. These assessments have laid the groundwork for us to explore various resources that are available to expand our infrastructure. This infrastructure includes water, wastewater, and natural gas. We have several multimillion dollar requests for funding pending in various programs that, if approved, will greatly enhance our ability to serve any new large customer.

"Thanks to our partnership with the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), we stand poised and capable of competitively acquiring and serving large industrial and commercial electric loads."

Thanks to our partnership with the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), we stand poised and capable of competitively acquiring and serving large industrial and commercial electric loads. Georgia's Customer Choice program provides an avenue for us to compete for those larger loads both inside and outside of our service area. To qualify for Customer Choice, the industry must use 900 KW or more. It is a common misconception that we buy our electricity from another company like Georgia Power or maybe an EMC but the reality is that we actually own generation in the same plants where these companies own generation. We use the same transmission system and sometimes we even share substations. MEAG, a joint action agency comprised of 49 member communities, is recognized as one of the leading joint action agencies of this type in the country. We are proud to be one of the 49. This partnership with MEAG makes us a part of a network with over 2,000+ MW total generation and \$12 billion in assets.

We are also very fortunate to have available to us the expertise and resources of Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (the Gas Authority) to assist us in preparing for growth. ECG supports us and 51 other public power communities with utility operations. The Gas Authority is the largest non-profit natural gas joint action agency in the United States and supports us plus 80 other members. The Gas Authority members are located in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. We are poised for growth.

GOV. KEMP ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF MIDDLE GEORGIA MEGASITE IN PEACH COUNTY—JUNE 16, 2022

Atlanta, GA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today announced the purchase of a more than 1,100-acre economic development site in partnership between the State of Georgia and the Development Authority of Peach County.

“Even after announcing the two largest projects in the State’s history back-to-back, we remain focused on attracting key industries and investment by providing the project sites companies need,” said Governor Kemp. “It is very encouraging to see a new, fully prepared megasite that will create more high-quality jobs for hardworking Georgians in rural parts of the state. Georgia’s superior infrastructure – including our robust highway system, rail lines, record-setting port, and top-ranked airport – continues to make doing business in the Peach State a competitive choice for companies around the world. I am thankful to Peach County for their partnership on this investment.”

The Middle Georgia Megasite is strategically located adjacent to GA Hwy 96 with immediate access via Interstate 75 to multiple major metro areas across the American South and Midwest. The site is less than three hours by truck from the Port of Savannah, the single-largest and fastest-growing container terminal in the U.S. with two Class I rail facilities on-site. Both the Port of Savannah and Port of Brunswick can easily be reached in less than 5 hours by rail. Rail service to the site is provided by Norfolk Southern Class I rail on its north side and additional rail line on its west side, creating multiple access and design possibilities for loading cars.



Additionally, the site is a 90-minute drive from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which is the busiest and most efficient airport in the world. Two regional airports are within 25 minutes of the Middle Georgia Megasite. Industrial utilities are adjacent to the site, and extensive due diligence reports have been completed to reduce barriers to speedy operations. To learn more about the site, visit www.peachcountydevelopment.com.

“We’ve been preparing for an opportunity like this for a long time,” said Martin Moseley, Chairman of the Peach County Board of Commissioners. “The Middle Georgia Megasite will put the entire Middle Georgia region on the map and position us for significant investment and new jobs. An announcement like this is transformative for a rural community, and we are so excited to be a part of something of this significance.”

“The Middle Georgia Megasite is an excellent example of investing in the future and long-term health of a community,” said Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson. “This joint effort will create opportunities for the entire region, and the projects attracted to megasites create a ripple effect of growth that crosses county lines. Right now, we’re seeing that speed to market is a driving factor for companies, and preparing sites of this scale to meet companies’ timelines keeps Georgia competitive. Thank you to Peach County and all of our partners who have worked to make this project happen.”

About the Middle Georgia Megasite

The Middle Georgia Megasite purchase will be made in partnership with the State of Georgia and the Development Authority of Peach County using proceeds from the sale of the Chatham County Economic Development Site, which was purchased by Amazon in 2021 for a new major distribution facility. The site includes four parcels of land, of which approximately 1,100 acres are developable.

Be Safe. Dig Smart. Call First.

Call before you dig! When you plan to dig or move dirt with mechanical equipment, call **811** at least 48 hours before you dig. Your call to **811** will be directed to the local One Call Center who will then contact affected utilities to have the facilities in your area marked.

Failure to use **811** is a known cause of pipeline accidents. Calling before you dig is the law and can prevent a costly or even a deadly mistake. Striking an underground pipeline may result in fire, explosion and/or asphyxiation.

Here are some simple steps to damage prevention:

- ◆ **Survey and Mark** – Survey proposed excavation areas and mark the dig sites in white paint
- ◆ **Call Before You Dig** – 48 hours prior to digging, call **811** to have underground facilities located. It is the law in Georgia.
- ◆ **Wait the Required Time** – Allow utility owners time to locate and mark the lines
- ◆ **Respect the Marks** – Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging
- ◆ **Dig with Care** – Hand excavate within 24-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area, especially using mechanized equipment, use a shovel and carefully hand-dig to expose the lines.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. It's a bad smell. That's good! Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs. **If Your Equipment Contacts a Gas Line:**

- **Leave equipment;** jumping clear and shuffling away – DO NOT turn off the engine.
- **Warn others and leave** the area quickly; DO NOT congregate around natural gas facilities
- **Do not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas or try to fold over plastic pipelines
- Leave the **excavation open.**
- If gas is escaping the pipeline, **call 911** then **Fort Valley Utility Commission** at **478-825-7701**
- If the line is nicked, scraped, gouged, dented or otherwise damaged but not leaking, call **Fort Valley Utility Commission** at **478-825-7701** ; these may appear to be minor but can lead to future leaks if not properly repaired

Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.

To protect yourself and this community, federal and state government, along with **Fort Valley Utility Commission** have made reliability and safety high priorities. For additional information regarding this message, please call us at **478-825-7701** .

CUSTOMER SERVICE

O
R
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SIGN UP for e-bill! Call us at
478.825.7701 Option 3
or email customerservice@fvutil.com
You can also sign up by logging into your account on-line.

For COVID-19 payment assistance call 800.525.4972

Lighting the way to a brighter future

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is proud to provide electric, gas, water, wastewater, fiber optic, and wireless telecommunications to its customer service area in Central Georgia.

Chat with us



Check out our chat feature on our website!



Up to **60 MONTHS**
FINANCING AVAILABLE
MONTHLY PAYMENT ADDED TO YOUR BILL



+

0%

FINANCING AVAILABLE

on qualified natural gas appliances

Ask Customer Service about our Main Street On-Bill
Finance Program
478-825-7701

Make wise choices to use less energy with the following tips:

- **Set your thermostat** in the summer at 78 degrees or higher, and in the winter, 68 degrees or lower.
- Use a **smart thermostat** to program and manage your energy usage.
- Try **ceiling or portable fans** to circulate air and make a room feel cooler.
- **Clean or replace all filters in your home monthly.** Dirty filters make your system work harder than necessary.
- **Replace any light bulb**, especially ones that burn more than one hour per day, **with a LED bulb.**
- **Purchase energy-efficient appliances and products.** Check the Energy Guide label and look for the **ENERGY STAR®** logo when purchasing these items.
- **Turn off or unplug small electronic devices** when they are not being used.
- Weatherize your home by **sealing gap/air leaks** along vents, windows and doors.
- **Reduce your use of hot water**—take short showers, use cold water to wash clothes, etc. Lower your water heater thermostat settings to 120° F.
- **Install an insulation blanket** around the water heater tank or consider a tankless water heater and wrap insulation around hot water pipes.
- **Add or upgrade the insulation** in the attic. Remember, heat rises!



FVUC to Implement Advanced Metering

Fort Valley Utility Commission (FVUC) is moving to the next generation of metering. This upgrade of the metering system to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure will provide a variety of benefits, including better customer service and better reliability. **Within the next 30 days**, FVUC will be upgrading the existing **electric meter** of *1,500 homes or business* with an Advanced Meter.

What to expect during installation?

- An FVUC employee or authorized contractor, with appropriate identification, will knock on the customer's door before installing the new AMI meter. If no one answers, installation will still proceed.
- Installations will occur between **8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, and should take approximately **20 minutes** to complete.
- If the FVUC representative cannot physically access the meter at the property, it may be necessary to contact the customer to schedule an appointment.
- Expect a brief interruption during this time.
- The installation will occur at no cost to the customer.



To facilitate a quality installation, customers are requested to trim any vegetation or move any obstacles that could hinder access to the meter.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure - Frequently Asked Questions

What is Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)?

AMI is a technology solution that allows two-way communication between electric, gas, water meters, and FVUC. In the future, this two-way network will also be used to communicate with other devices on FVUC's electric, gas, and water distribution systems, thus providing a greater level of information about the status of those systems.

Is Advanced Metering new technology?

Advanced Metering has been around for many years and is implemented in millions of homes and businesses across the United States. Advanced Metering is already implemented at many of the utilities that surround the FVUC service territory.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure—Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Advanced Meter?

Advanced Meters allow for two-way communication on an Advanced Metering network. The meters collect usage data in increments. FVUC will configure electric meters to collect usage in 15-minute increments, and gas and water meters to collect in hourly increments. The electric meters will also collect incremental data on voltage, current, and temperature. The meters then transmit the data to FVUC via the two-way network. Additionally, FVUC personnel can remotely communicate with the meters to get current reads, check status, and disconnect and reconnect electric power.

How does Advanced Metering benefit me?

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) will provide you with better information to utilize your utility resources more efficiently. As the system is developed, you will have access to more detailed information about your energy and water usage via the customer portal on our website, fvutil.com. Additionally, when the power at your home is interrupted, FVUC will be automatically notified. With Advanced Metering, FVUC will be able to provide a higher level of customer service; offer better reliability, and keep our operating costs low. The additional and timelier information available through AMI will enable us to better address customer questions and issues. That same information will give FVUC a view of what is happening throughout the various distribution systems, thus enabling us to be more proactive and avoid outages or other system issues. Many functions that require sending crews out to the field today will be performed remotely with AMI, thus saving labor, fuel, and vehicle costs, in addition to being more environmentally friendly.

A short list of benefits related to Advanced Metering: Outage notification; Customer portal – usage data; Reduction of vehicle emissions (meter reader vehicles); Identification of theft (keeps costs low); Identification of water leaks or troubleshooting excessive usage; Customer privacy – no meter reader on-premise; Reduced risk to utility employees – dog bites, vehicle incidents, other job hazards; Fewer estimated bills due to inability to conduct manual reads due to locked gates, aggressive animals, etc.

What will Advanced Metering cost me?

There will be no additional customer bill charges for this new technology. The project is being funded out of normal operating budgets.

Will I have access to my meter data?

Yes. As the system is developed, you will have access to more detailed information about your energy and water usage via the FVUC customer web portal. Additional functionality will be added as we continually improve the system. This functionality will enable you to make better choices about how you use your utility resources.

Will City Utilities be able to control anything in my home or business?

No. FVUC has designed our Advanced Metering system such that our access stops at the meter. At no time would FVUC be able to control or monitor anything in the customer's home or business.

How does all this work?

Water and gas meters communicate with nearby electric meters. The electric meters can communicate with other nearby electric meters and ultimately with a collection point, which creates a mesh network. The mesh network is very redundant, resilient, and self-healing.

Additional Frequently Asked Questions are available on our webpage. Visit fvutil.com.

Just For Fun!

Economic Development

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A H U Z E E N S H R O C X Z E B J W Q R O B J H
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Advantage	Analysis	Business	Capacity	<u>Clawbacks</u>	Community
Corporate	Corporation	Development	Economy	Enterprise	Equity
Financing	Impact	Incentives	Industrial	Industry	Infrastructure
Inventory	Investor	Opportunity	Recruitment	Retention	Revenue

2021 Annual Water Quality Report

Prepared April 2022

Water System ID#2250001

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is committed to providing customers with a safe, healthy, and reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Our water is tested with sophisticated equipment and an advanced procedure multiple times a day. This report details the safety of our water along with the standard parameters. As health scientists learn more about our environment and the effects of substances on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water. The Commission continues to add new technology to meet and exceed new standards. All water sources pass over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials and can pick up substances relating to the presence of animals, or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water:

Biological – may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources.

Inorganic – can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides – may come from agriculture, storm run-off or residential use.

Organic chemicals – may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.

Radioactive materials – can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activity.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Where does our water come from? The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets water from the Tuscaloosa aquifer, which is approximately 500 feet below the surface. This aquifer has, so far, provided the city with safe and dependable supply of water even in the driest years. For information on the Well-Head Protection Plan, contact the Utility Commission's Water Plant at (478)825-5482 or Clay Walker at (478)825-7701 ext. 228.

Treatment Process: Utility Commission water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding lime slurry. Fluoride is added to help protect dental health. Phosphate is added to enhance corrosion control.

What is in our water? More than 7,500 tests are conducted annually at the Fort Valley Utility Commission's Drinking water Lab. These tests monitor tap water for micro-organisms, minerals, and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for contaminants, including coliform bacteria, metals, nitrates, and pesticides. The water distribution system is tested on a regular basis.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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 ways to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We 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 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>.

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Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs 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.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90 th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Copper	09/10/2019	1.3	1.3	0.21	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	09/10/2019	0	15	1.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following table contains scientific terms and measures, some which may require explanation.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest 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.

Level 1 Assessment: A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

na: not applicable.

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Chlorine	2021	1	0-1	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2021	0.6	0-1.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	1.1	0-3.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

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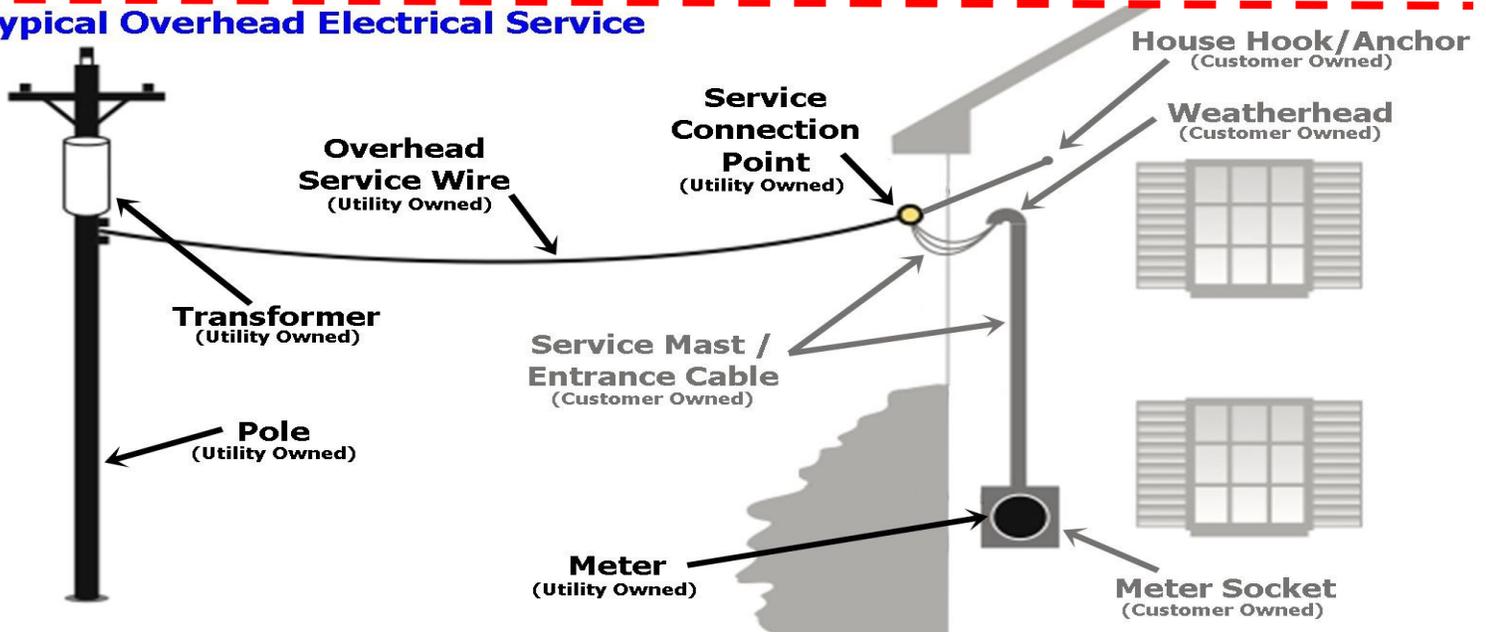
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	00/02/2021	0.46	0.10-1.2	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2021	0.6	0.56-0.95	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of levels detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	07/16/2019	2.8	2.8-2.8	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	07/16/2019	7.23	7.23-7.23	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Additional Testing and Research: The EPA has required the Utility Commission and hundreds of U.S. water systems to participate in a major testing program called the Information Collection Rule (ICR). The ICR is intended to provide EPA information about the occurrence of chemical by-products used in disinfecting, plus information about disease-causing pathogens (microorganisms). The data on how public water supply systems control the chemical by-products and pathogens will be used to revise drinking water standards.

Additional Information Sources: Web sites with information about water quality: www.epa.gov/ow www.awwa.org www.gaepd.org www.amwa.net

Please join us in making our decisions. We encourage and invite public interest and participation in the decision-making that affects drinking water. The Fort Valley Utility Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at 500 Anthoine St. The Fort Valley Utility Commission business office is open daily except for weekends and holidays. Lobby hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Customer Service telephone number is (478) 825-7701, option 3. The Drinking Water Quality Lab, and emergency after hours, telephone number is (478) 825-5482.

Typical Overhead Electrical Service



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Published by the
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P.O. Box 1529
Fort Valley GA 31030

Emergency Service

Nights and Weekends
478-825-5482

Office Hours

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday



**Don't ruin a beautiful day
by digging unsafely**

If you're tackling outdoor DIY projects this summer, make sure you call 811 prior to digging so you don't hit an underground utility line.

**Call 811 or visit Call811.com
before digging.**

