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Water System ID#2250001

2023 Annual Water Quality Report

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.

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	90th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Units	Violation	Likely source of contamination
Copper	9/30/2022	0.81	1.3	0.81	2	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	9/30/2022	0.0031	15	3.1	1	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 Contaminate 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	2023	1	0-1.2	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2023	5.1	4.7-5.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	2	0-31.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	**Collection Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of levels detected**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Units**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Fluoride	2023	1.6	0.06-1.6	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]	2023	1	0.6-0.89	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septictanks, 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	2023	1	0-2.42	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2023	2	0-4.91	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants	**Collection Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range of Levels Detected**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Units**	**Violation**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Ethylbenzene	2023	0.85	0 – 0.85	700	700	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries.
Xylenes	2023	.0068	0 – 0.0068	10	10	ppm	N	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharged from chemical factories.

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 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.