

# Annual Water Quality Report

## Winder Water Works

### The Safety of Your Drinking Water

The City of Winder (WSID# GA130002) is pleased to report that our community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and EPA during 2011. This Water Quality Report provides our customers with detailed accounts of all the monitoring and testing results gathered from water quality testing during 2011. We are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year round basis and are proud to provide the enclosed information.

### Information About Contaminants

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).

- \* *Biological* - may come from human, agricultural or wildlife sources.
- \* *Inorganic* - can be naturally occurring, from urban stormwater runoff, from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or from farming.
- \* *Pesticides and Herbicides* - may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- \* *Organic Chemical* - can be by-products of industrial or domestic processes, stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- \* *Radioactive Materials* - can be naturally occurring or be the result of mining or other processes.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

### Water Sources

Water sources for the City of Winder include the Mulberry River, City Pond and Fort Yargo Lake. The City of Winder works hard to protect these water sources. The City stores water from the Mulberry River at the Laurel Lane Reservoir and at the Water Plant Reservoir. The City of Winder augments its water production with water from Barrow County whose water source is the Bear Creek Water Plant which gets its water from the Bear Creek Reservoir and the Middle Oconee River.

### Participation

Your water system is an active participant in the community. We are pleased to offer information and speakers to the community on water protection and water treatment, as well as provide tours of our facilities. Your City Council meets the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Winder Community Center.

### Source Water Assessment

The City of Winder and the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center (NEGRDC) have completed an assessment of potential for pollution of surface drinking water supply sources. The results of this assessment can be found on the Internet at [www.negrdc.org/swap/index.html](http://www.negrdc.org/swap/index.html), or request a copy by mail from the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center, 305 Research Drive, Athens, Georgia 30605, Phone: (706) 369-5650, or Fax: (706) 369-5792.

A source water assessment is a study and report, unique to each water system that provides basic information about the water used to provide drinking water. The Source Water Assessment includes:

- \* Identifying the area of land that contributes raw water used for drinking water
- \* Identifying potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies, and
- \* Providing an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

This information can help communities understand potential for contamination of their drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

### Water Ban

The state of Georgia has enacted restrictions on outdoor water use which apply year round with additional restrictions to be triggered in drought conditions of varying severity. You may determine when outdoor watering is permitted by referencing our website at [www.cityofwinder.com](http://www.cityofwinder.com) or by contacting the Winder Water Distribution Office at 770-867-7978.

# Drinking Water Test Results

## Regulated Substances

(This report is for calendar year 2011)

Substance tested and detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Winder Amount detected	Is The Water Safe?	Probable Source
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.11	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	ppb	0	15	0	YES	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.82 (avg) 0.59-1.22 (range)	YES	Water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate/Nitrite	ppm	10	10	1.1(avg)	YES	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity *	NTU	NA	TT	0.12 (max)* 0.05 (avg)	YES	Soil Runoff.
Trihalomethanes, Total	ppb	NA	80	29.9 (avg) 13.3 - 72.7 (range)	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	NA	60	15.6 (avg) 7.1 - 26 (range)	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromodichloro-methane	ppb	NA	NA	7.2***	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chloroform	ppb	NA	NA	16***	YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform **	%	0	<5% positive	0%	YES	Bacteria naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

\* The value (0.20 NTU) shown in the table above indicates the highest reading taken. Average readings are typically substantially less. For example, in 2011, the City of Winder took 27,686 turbidity readings, all of which (100%) were less than 0.3 NTU. The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources requires that 95% of all samples taken be less than 0.3 NTU. EPD requires that the average for all samples be less than 0.3 NTU. The 2011 average turbidity was 0.05 NTU.

\*\* Of all samples taken and tested for total coliform (bacteria), all tests came back negative, indicating that no bacteria was ever detected in your water.

\*\*\* These values represent the highest level detected.

The City of Winder had no violations in the operation of it's water system.

The presence of these contaminants (substances) does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Reading the Results

## Definitions

AL	Action Level - means the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level or Maximum Allowed - is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water by EPA. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - is 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. Highest levels are reported to determine compliance.
ml	Milliliter - or one thousandth of a liter. One Liter = slightly more than a quart.
NA	Not applicable.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
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.
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.
TT	Treatment Technique means a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Turbidity	Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of filtration.
(a)	Water from a treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. However, based upon EPD testing requirements, water is tested at the tap. These tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead soldered copper pipes, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.
(b)	Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million. This optimum concentration promotes strong teeth.
(c)	The Georgia Environmental Protection Division requires that no single reading for turbidity exceed 2 NTU.
(d)	The Georgia Environmental Protection Division requires that no more than 5% of all readings taken exceed 0.3 NTU.
>	Greater than
<	Less than

### A Note About 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. Our water system 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>.

### Notice to immuno-compromised people

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).

## Water Conservation

In the past, Georgians considered clean water to be an unlimited resource. A large percentage of all household water is used for outdoor landscaping during summer months, and this usage is prohibitively expensive. Water systems must maintain excess treatment and supply capacity all year just to have the added capacity needed for a few weeks of peak summertime demand. Landscapes are typically overwatered by 20 to 75 percent and as much as one-third is lost to evaporation if applied at the wrong time of day. The state of Georgia experienced a significant drought in recent years. This coupled with continued growth can be a challenge to adequate water supply. To ensure sufficient water supplies for present and future generations, we must use this precious resource wisely. Effective water demand management can increase the life-of existing raw water supplies, minimize the impact of drought, and postpone infrastructure development. We encourage all of our customers to design landscapes that will implement water conservation techniques. For more information on what you can do to conserve water, go to [www.conservewatergeorgia.net](http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net) or [www.cityofwinder.com](http://www.cityofwinder.com).

The City of Winder contracts with H. S. FELDMAN, Inc. for the operation, maintenance, and management of its Water Treatment Facilities. H. S. FELDMAN, Inc. has six Class I Operators (the highest certification that can be achieved) and a state certified lab analyst working in the City of Winder Water Treatment Plant. Should you have any questions regarding the information in this brochure, please contact any of the following individuals for assistance:

Name	Certification	Phone Number
Robert Fox, Superintendent	Class I Operator	770-867-7033
Leigh Pass, Lab Analyst	Lab Analyst	770-867-7033
Herb Feldman, Manager	Class I Operator	770-868-0863

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