

# 2009 Water Quality Report

## City of Hartwell ID#1470000

The City of Hartwell is proud to inform you that its water is **safe** and had no violations of water quality parameters during 2009. Last year, our water system conducted various laboratory tests for more than 80 drinking water parameters, resulting in our system being in 100% compliance for state and federal regulatory agency testing requirements. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Your water department is committed to providing our community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for all of us. For more information about your water or this report, call Ken Lystiuk, Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator, at 706-856-3211 or City Hall at 706-376-4756.

Your water comes from a surface water pumping station which takes water from an average depth of approximately 30 feet. The water source is commonly known as Lightwood Log Creek, Lake Hartwell, which provides ample volumes of water for our community. The pumping station is located next to the Tugaloo H. Risner Memorial Bridge on Reed Creek Highway. Water is pumped to the City of Hartwell Water Treatment Plant where contaminants and bacteria are removed through filtration, water is disinfected, then conditioned to inhibit corrosion throughout the water distribution system, as well as your household plumbing.

Issues concerning your water are discussed at the City Council Meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 500 East Howell Street, Hartwell, GA. Your participation or comments are welcome at these meetings.

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 the 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 (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 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 (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 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 animal 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 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 by-products 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.

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. The City of Hartwell 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>.

Your water system is a WaterFirst community and is an active participant in the community. Our employees are pleased to offer information to the community on water protection, water conservation, water treatment, as well as provide tours of our facility.

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.

### Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009. As authorized by Georgia EPD, our system has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data though representative, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): "The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology."
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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."
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): "The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants."
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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."
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**na:** Not applicable **nd:** Not detectable at testing limit. **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter. One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars. **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter. One part per million is equivalent to one minute in 2 years or one penny in 10,000 dollars. **TTHM's:** Total Trihalomethanes – By-product of chlorination. **HAA's:** Haloacetic acids – By-product of chlorination. **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Because of a proven track record, the City of Hartwell, operates under a chemical monitoring waiver and is exempt from testing the inorganic compounds asbestos and cyanide.

| Test Results                             |                                      |       |                       |                           |             |           |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Inorganic Contaminants                   |                                      |       |                       |                           |             |           |  |
| Parameter                                | MCL                                  | MCLG  | Hartwell Water System | Range of Detections       | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant              |
| Fluoride (ppm)                           | 4                                    | 4     | 0.87                  | 53 - 1.10                 | 2009        | NO        | Water additive which promotes strong teeth |
| Parameter                                | AL                                   | MCLG  | Hartwell Water System | # of sites found above AL | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant              |
| Lead (ppb)                               | 15                                   | 0     | 2.5                   | 0                         | 2008        | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems    |
| Copper (ppm)                             | 1.3                                  | 1.3   | 0.091                 | 0                         | 2008        | NO        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems    |
| Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products |                                      |       |                       |                           |             |           |  |
| Parameter                                | MRDL                                 | MRDLG | Hartwell Water System | Range of Detections       | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant              |
| Chlorine (ppm)                           | 4                                    | 4     | 1.00                  | 1.1 - 1.99                | 2009        | NO        | Water additive used to control microbes    |
| Parameter                                | MCL                                  | MCLG  | Hartwell Water System | Range of Detections       | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant              |
| Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)              | 80                                   | n/a   | 43.7                  | 27.5 - 101.9              | 2009        | NO        | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| Haloacetic acids (ppb)                   | 60                                   | n/a   | 28.41                 | 14.7 - 50.2               | 2009        | NO        | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| Microbiological Contaminants             |                                      |       |                       |                           |             |           |  |
| Parameter                                | MCL                                  | MCLG  | Hartwell Water System | Range of Detections       | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant              |
| Total Organic Carbon                     | TT ≥ 1                               | n/a   | 1.07                  | 1.0 - 1.51                | 2009        | NO        | Naturally present in the environment       |
| Turbidity                                | TT = 1 NTU                           | 0     | 0.21                  | .05 - .21                 | 2009        | NO        | Soil runoff and erosion                    |
|  | TT = percentage of samples < 0.3 NTU | 0     | 100%                  | n/a                       | 2009        | NO        |  |

The Source Water Assessment for the City of Hartwell was completed in 2003. The purpose of the study is to identify potential sources of pollution within the drinking water source's watershed and to assess the watershed susceptibility to contamination from potential pollution sources. The intake for the City of Hartwell scored HIGH in the overall pollution susceptibility ranking. The high susceptibility ranking is largely due to potential pollution sources within close proximity to surface water, medium to high toxicity of potential releases and hilly topography. The majority of the potential pollution sources were identified as road-stream crossings. Other pollution sources have been identified within the watershed and are listed in the Source Water Assessment. It is important to note that these sources have not necessarily contributed to surface water pollution in the past; they simply represent potential sources within the watershed. A copy of the Source Water Assessment can be obtained at City Hall.

The City of Hartwell had no water quality violations in 2009 and will continue to bring the highest quality water possible to the people of our community.

To help ensure the distribution of safe drinking water for the citizens of Hartwell, the City of Hartwell requests that citizens report any suspicious activity or vandalism around facilities such as the Water Treatment Plant, water intake structure, elevated water tanks, or around any fire hydrants throughout the water system. If such activities are discovered, please call 706-376-3111 immediately.

The City of Hartwell will not be providing copies of this report by mail or any other direct delivery method. Copies of this report can be obtained at City Hall M – F, 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Ken Lystiuk  
City of Hartwell  
Chief Operator