

# **2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

## **Blue Ridge, Georgia**

CWSID#: 1110000

P.O. Box 2349, Blue Ridge, GA 30513 - (706) 632-2091

Prepared in Accordance With:  
The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
National Primary Drinking Water Regulation  
40 CFR Parts 141 and 142

### **Is my water safe?**

The City of Blue Ridge (City) is pleased to report that your community's drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and EPA during the previous year (2016). This Water Quality Report is intended to inform our customers of where their drinking water comes from, how it is treated, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our employees are committed to providing you with safe, dependable tap water on a year-round basis and are proud to provide the enclosed information.

### **Where does my water come from?**

The City of Blue Ridge utilizes surface water as its raw water source from the Toccoa River. This water is then pumped to a 2.0 million gallon reservoir located at the nearby water plant and then fed by gravity to the plant for treatment.

A source water assessment plan (SWAP) has been completed which identified potential sources of surface water pollution that may pose a threat to the water supply within the watershed of the Blue Ridge Toccoa River Intake. According to the GA EPD ranking methodology, this assessment determined that the watershed's susceptibility to pollution was MEDIUM. To obtain a copy of the SWAP, contact Larry Vanden Bosch of the North Georgia Regional Development Center at 706-272-2300.

### **How is this water treated?**

When the "raw" water from the reservoir enters the plant, a coagulant is added so particles will settle out in a basin. The water is then filtered through a dual media filter of anthracite and sand to remove remaining particles, including natural organic materials, clays and silt, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Phosphate (to make the water non-corrosive to plumbing systems), lime (for pH control), and fluoride (for dental health) are each added, and the water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe.

## Contaminants and Health Risks Found in Drinking Water

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 (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 other health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Additional information can be obtained over the Internet from:

<http://www.epa.gov/ow>  
<http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/epd>  
<http://www.awwa.org>  
<http://www.amwa-water.org>

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, 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 water 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.

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 of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through monitoring and testing during the calendar year of 2016. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants on a daily basis and others monthly, yearly, or less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

### Terms and Abbreviations Used In Table

- ***MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)***: 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.
- ***MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)***: The highest level 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.
- ***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 microbiological 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.
- ***AL (Action Level)***: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ***Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)*** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- ***Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)*** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- ***Treatment Technique (TT)*** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ***Turbidity Units (NTU)*** - Measure of the clarity of water.

## TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Detected Substance	Units	MCLG	MCL	Blue Ridge Water System (a)	Range Detected	Violation?	Probable Source	
Regulated Contaminants								
Turbidity (b)	NTU	N/A	TT	0.03	0.02-0.16	NO	Soil runoff	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	mg/l	N/A	TT = <1	0.29	0.00-0.65	NO	Naturally present in the environment	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Lead	ug/l	0	AL=15	2.5 (d)	0.0-5.40	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Copper	ug/l	0	AL=1300	42 (d)	0.0-130	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing	
Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	N/A	10	Not Detected	Not Detected	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride	mg/l	4	4	0.79	0.60-1.20	NO	Water additive that promotes strong teeth	
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Trihalo-Methanes (TTHM)	Stage 2 (c) (#501)	ug/l	N/A	80	LRAA – 18.0	11.5-21.6	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
	Stage 2 (c) (#502)				LRAA – 30.98	22.6-36.2		
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Stage 2 (c) (#501)	ug/l	N/A	60	LRAA – 16.58	8.20-24.0	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
	Stage 2 (c) (#502)				LRAA – 28.30	19.2-37.0		
Chlorine	mg/l	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.51	1.10-2.20	NO	Added to water for disinfection	

(a) Values represent average measurement unless otherwise noted.

(b) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

(c) 2016 Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)

(d) Value represents the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile.

## **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. The City of Blue Ridge 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 (800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **Cryptosporidium**

*Cryptosporidium* was not sampled during 2016. *Cryptosporidium* is a microbial contaminant commonly found in surface water. Symptoms of *Cryptosporidium* infection include diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, and fever.

## **Disinfection Byproducts (DBP)**

The 2016 CCR DBP results for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) consist of Stage 2 Locational Running Annual Averages (LRRA).

## **Opportunities for public participation**

The City of Blue Ridge holds its City Council meetings at 6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at City Hall.

## **For more information**

For more information regarding this report or to receive an individual copy, please contact Charles T. Hawkins at the Blue Ridge Water Plant at (706) 632-2524. Individual copies of this report will not be mailed to each consumer.

**This water quality report was prepared by Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc., as a service to the City of Blue Ridge, GA.**