

## Drinking Water Quality Table KEY

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 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 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.

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

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

### KEY: for all units used in table

AL	Action Level
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
NA	Not Applicable
ND	Not detected at testing limit
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.)
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (one part per million is equivalent to one penny in \$10,000.)
TT	Treatment Technique

## Regulated Contaminants

## Sample Date 2006

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, results represent water supplied to the distribution system by Hemphill WTP, Chattahoochee WTP and Atlanta-Fulton Co. WTP

Microbiological Monitoring Results: Total coliform bacteria-highest percentage of positive samples collected in one month					
Parameter (present or absent in sample)	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria (entire distribution system)	presence of coliform bacteria in 5.0% of monthly samples	0	0.4%	No	Naturally occurring

Turbidity: Highest single turbidity measurement, and lowest monthly percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU					
Water Treatment Plants	Parameter/Units	MCL	Detected Level	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source
Hemphill & Chattahoochee: (combined distribution system)	Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU	1 NTU	No	Soil runoff and erosion
	Turbidity (% of samples)	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	98%	No	
Atlanta-Fulton County	Turbidity (NTU)	TT = 1 NTU	0.08	No	
	Turbidity (% of samples)	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	100%	No	

Inorganic Contaminants							
Water Treatment Plants	Parameter/Units	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source
Hemphill & Chattahoochee: (combined distribution system)	Fluoride/ppm	4	4	0.91	0 - 1.01	No	Water additive
	Nitrate as Nitrogen/ppm	10	10	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	No	Fertilizer runoff
Atlanta-Fulton County	Fluoride/ppm	4	4	0.94	0.75 - 1.08	No	Water additive
	Nitrate as Nitrogen/ppm	10	10	0.02	N/A	No	Fertilizer runoff

Complete Distribution System supplied by all 3 water treatment plants

Parameter/Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source
Copper/ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	0.2	51 samples, no sites were found above the AL	No	Household plumbing
Lead/ppb	AL=15	0	2.5	51 samples, 1 site was found above the AL	No	Water additive
Chlorine/ppm	4 (MRDL)	4(MRDLG)	0.8	<0.5 - 2.0	No	Water additive

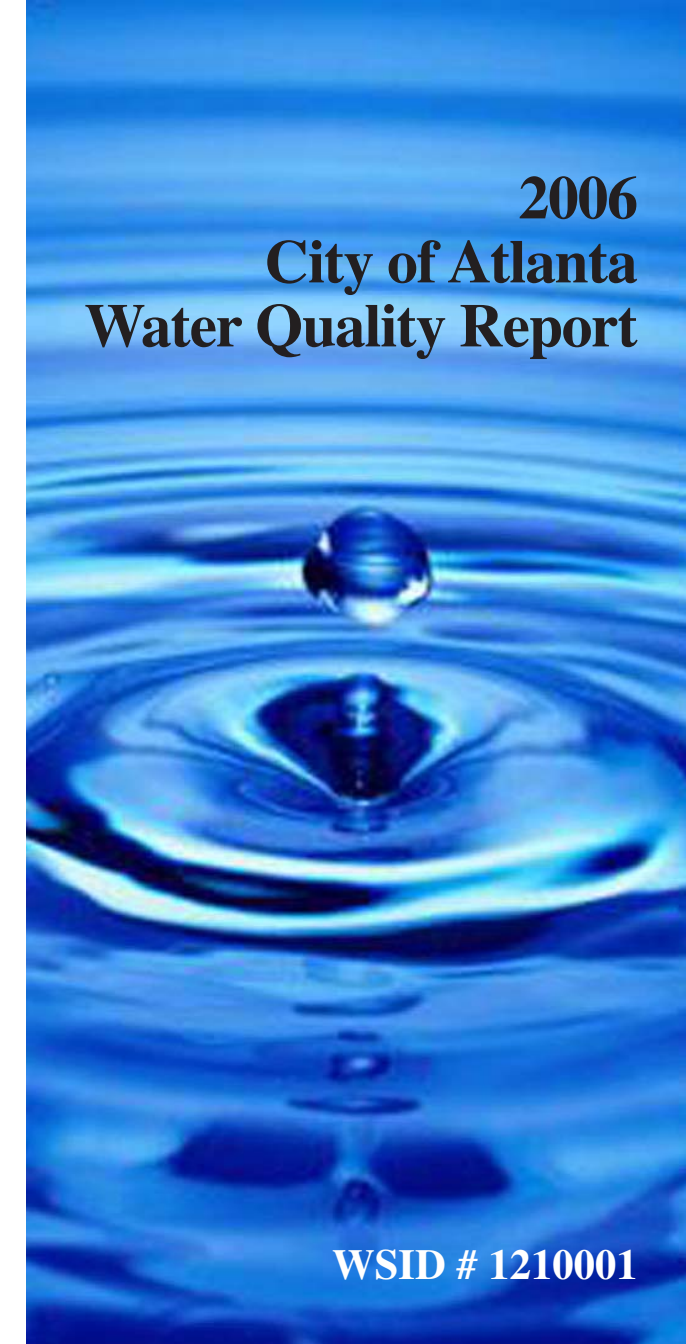
Lead and Copper 90th percentile value of samples collected from the most recent round of sampling

Organic Contaminants						
Parameter/Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range of Detections	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes/ppb	80	NA	42	21 - 67	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic acids/ppb	60	NA	40	19 - 44	No	
Total Organic Carbon/ppm Hemphill and Chattahoochee	TT	NA	1.03	N/A	No	Naturally present
Total Organic Carbon/ppm Atlanta-Fulton County	TT	NA	1.07	N/A	No	

Note: TOC is a calculated removal ratio and is reported for compliance as a running annual average, computed quarterly

Note: TTHMs and HAA5 = reported for compliance as a running annual average

# 2006 City of Atlanta Water Quality Report



WSID # 1210001

## A Commitment to Clean Water

The City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (DWM) is pleased to provide the 2006 Water Quality Report (WQR). Compiled and presented by the DWM Bureau of Drinking Water, this WQR supplies information about Atlanta's drinking water system and shows that the City's drinking water continues to meet or exceed standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each year, the City conducts more than 50,000 tests to screen for more than 150 potential contaminants in its drinking water. Water is analyzed for



hundreds of compounds; however, the table shown in this report lists only regulated substances that were detected during the tests, even if the detected amount was below the highest level allowed by EPA and federal regulations.

Throughout 2006, DWM continued its efforts to rebuild the City's drinking water infrastructure in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. The Department installed new water mains in the Bankhead area and began the replacement of approximately 110,000 feet of new 8- and 12-inch water mains in the Virginia-Highland neighborhood. In addition, DWM is replacing water mains in the McDaniel and Greensferry sewer basins in conjunction with sewer separation projects in those communities. DWM made progress on the Water System Components Survey, a three-year project to test and inventory relief valves, hydrants and other distribution system components, and began implementing an Automated Meter Reading system that allows water meters to be read electronically.

The Department continues to upgrade plants and other water facilities, and has focused new energy on its customer service operation, expanding customer service hours and instituting new bill payment options.

For more information about these or other current Clean Water Atlanta projects, visit [www.cleanwateratlanta.org](http://www.cleanwateratlanta.org) or call (404) 529-9211.

## Our Monitoring Program



Attn: Matthew Harper  
Environmental Planning Division  
Atlanta Regional Commission  
40 Courtland Street, NE • Atlanta GA 30303

## Sources of Your Water

Each day, the Atlanta water system provides approximately 120 million gallons of treated drinking water for nearly 1 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta area. All the water processed is surface water from the Chattahoochee River.

The raw water intake for the Chattahoochee and Hemphill Water Treatment Plants is located on the Chattahoochee River. The Chattahoochee Plant receives the water directly from the river. The Hemphill Plant processes raw water that has been pumped from the river to a reservoir. These two plants supply about 75% of Atlanta's drinking water. The remaining water is supplied by the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant, which also processes water from the Chattahoochee River. This plant supplies treated (finished) water to the northern area of our distribution system.

## Facts on Contaminants

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 before we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 stormwater 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, stormwater 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 stormwater runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the results 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.

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 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 (1-800-426-4791).

### Monthly monitoring results did not detect any **Cryptosporidium** in our source (raw) water.

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the United States. When ingested, it can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. **Cryptosporidium** must be ingested to cause disease, however, it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. Immuno-compromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses. These individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to prevent infection.

## Contact Information:

City of Atlanta • Bureau of Drinking Water,  
Water Quality Division  
650 Bishop St. NW, Atlanta GA 30318  
404-982-1458

To obtain a copy of this report, please visit:

<http://www.atlantawatershed.org/pdf/WQR2006.pdf>



## Important Information

This Report contains very important information about your drinking water. If you do not understand it, have someone explain it to you.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

## About Lead and Copper

Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters the tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. In 1986, Congress banned the use of solder containing more than 0.2% lead and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials. The regulation for lead became effective in 1992. Between 1993-1995, the EPA required water suppliers to collect and analyze water samples from household taps twice a year and to determine if lead was present above 15 ppb in more than 10 percent of all homes tested. (This is referred to as the Action Level for lead).

The City of Atlanta's monitoring results have shown that lead levels are found to be consistently below the Action Level. For more information about lead, consumers may contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the website [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html).