

# GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY WATER SYSTEM 2007 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Physical Plant, PO BOX 8012, Statesboro, GA 30460, (912) 478-5270

WATER SYSTEM ID - 0310006

The Georgia Southern University water system provides high quality drinking water for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, that exceeds federal and state standards. This report provides information on the source of our water, testing results, and educational information about our water. For additional information about our water system please direct your request to the Physical Plant Mechanical Services Department at 478-5867 or email questions to: [cwray@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:cwray@georgiasouthern.edu).

## THE BOTTOM LINE: IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK? ABSOLUTELY!

### OVERVIEW

Georgia Southern has provided for its own water since the institution was created in 1907. Georgia Southern complies with all state and federal requirements for operating our system and testing the water. GSU contracts with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Laboratory for sample analysis. We test for chemical contaminants, microbial contaminants, and chlorine residual at the frequencies prescribed by the EPD. The water system is comprised of a single 8" diameter, 530 foot deep well, a 300,000 gallon elevated storage tank and 80,000 feet of distribution piping. The system serves all of the facilities on the main campus. Facilities not served include Southern Pines, Southern Courtyard, Kennedy Hall, Eagle Village, Botanical Gardens, Paulson Stadium, as well as off campus leased facilities. These buildings are served by the City of Statesboro water system. Georgia Southern facilities that are not on the main campus are served by the City of Statesboro water system. The City's water quality report is available at: <http://www.sboro.net/media/Water%20Quality%20Report%202006.pdf>

### OUR WATER SOURCE

All of the water provided by the GSU Water System comes from groundwater. Southeast Georgia is blessed with a source of drinking water that is not only abundant, but of exceptional quality as well. The Floridan Aquifer, an underground geological formation, supplies us with a source of clean potable water. The only treatment that need be applied is the addition of chlorine to ensure the water remains biologically safe during distribution. A source water assessment was completed for the GSU water system. This report lists potential contaminants. If you would like a copy of this report please contact us at the above address.

### GENERAL WATER INFORMATION

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 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 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:

- 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 storm 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 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 result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Plumbing codes require the installation of Backflow Prevention devices in water systems at service connections to prevent possible contamination of the entire system. Georgia Southern University has implemented an annual inspection and testing program to insure backflow devices are functioning properly. Two of our Plumbers are certified to test backflow devices.

## WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM

The Georgia Southern University Water System has an annual flushing program to help preserve water quality. Performed during breaks, the water mains are systematically flushed through fire hydrants to remove any accumulated sediments.

## WATER CONSERVATION

GSU is taking action in many different areas to conserve water. We are installing metering on all taps to accurately measure water consumption at each facility or system, installing efficiency controls on irrigation systems, replacing older inefficient plumbing fixtures with new efficient ones, and monitoring for leakage.

Water Conservation is everyone's business. Ways that you can help save water include: limiting shower length, don't leave faucets running while brushing teeth or washing dishes or hands, flush toilet less often, report leaks immediately to Housing or Physical Plant. See [www.conservewatergeorgia.net](http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net) for more information.

## LEAD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. [Water Systems] 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 several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap water 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>.

## WATER-QUALITY DATA TABLE

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2007 reporting period. EPD has determined that the concentration of certain water quality parameters does not change frequently within our system. Therefore, some of the data represented in this report may be greater than one year old. The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

### DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS

Substance Tested and Detected	Units	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Range or Comments	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>REGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.029	n/a - 0.2	4/26/2005	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.032	No samples exceeded the action level	11/8/2005	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching; Corrosion of household/building plumbing systems; from wood preservative
Lead	ppb	1.5	1.5	0.4	No samples exceeded the action level	11/8/2005	NO	Corrosion of household/building plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>NON-REGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Sodium	ppb	none	none	7200		5/13/2006	NO	Naturally occurring
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL=4	0.49 Annual Average	0.3 - 0.6	2005	NO	Disinfectant

Websites with information about water quality:

<http://www.epa.gov/ow>

<http://www.dnr.state.ga.us>

<http://www.awwa.org>

<http://www.amwa.net>

Additional copies of this report are available at

Physical Plant

PO Box 8012

Statesboro, GA 30460

(912) 681-5270

<http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/facilities/documents/2007AWR.pdf>

The report will be updated annually.

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#### TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED:

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as low to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: 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 that a water system must follow.

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years or one penny in ten thousand dollars.

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/l) Example: One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.