

Board of Directors

Jim King, Chairman
Lake Gibson, Vice Chairman
Deborah Stowers, Secretary
Tony Kellar
Linda Townley

Brooke Anderson, P.E., General Manager

Mission

Etowah Water & Sewer Authority improves the quality of life for our customers, our community and environment through proper management of our water resources.

Vision

Etowah Water & Sewer Authority commits to support all of the citizens of Dawson County and economic development with water services.

Dates for monthly Board of Directors meetings are listed on the Authority's website and are held at the Administration Office in the Don D. Gordon Conference Room. The public is welcome to attend and we encourage public interest and participation in decisions affecting our community's drinking water. Please contact us if you would like to visit our facilities or if we can assist you with any educational opportunities.

If you have any questions about this report or need additional info, please contact Dolly Pendley, Treatment Systems Manager at 706-265-3395 or dollyp@etowahwater.org

Main Office Information

1162 Hwy. 53 East
Dawsonville, GA 30534
706-216-8474
www.etowahwater.org

2012 Annual Water Report



Annual Water Report - Reporting Year 2012

The Etowah Water & Sewer Authority is proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. We are committed to delivering “Excellence in every drop” of water to serve the needs of all our water users. We continually strive to meet the challenges of new State and Federal regulations, source water protection, and community education.

Where Does My Water Come From? The Etowah Water & Sewer Authority’s permit allows the Authority to withdraw 4.4 million gallon per day average with a 5.5 million gallons max per day of surface water from the Etowah River in the Coosa River Basin for the purpose of municipal water supply for Dawson County. The Etowah River is the primary source of water for the Authority’s **5,671** current accounts.

A **Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP)** is available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area upstream of our water intake and water sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply’s susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of “low to medium” due to the potential point and non-point sources of the bridge, auto salvage yard and poultry farms. The intake zone is “low” because of the high percentage of undeveloped land and conservation lands. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during business hours.

◆ **LA-UER Watershed Assessment:** The Authority is one of ten sponsors who completed a basin wide watershed assessment, crossing all jurisdictional boundaries from Lumpkin to Bartow county. This is the first ever “river basin” approach. EPD gave their approval of the watershed assessment on February 1, 2012 and verbal approval of the protection plan on March 5, 2013. The implementation process of the protection plan by each sponsor will take three to five years to complete.

Substances That Could Be In Tap Water: To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may include 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Important Health Information: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Violation Notice - Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Etowah State Water System ID# GA 0850007

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period of 9/1/2012 to 9/30/2012, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Total Coliform and cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. A notice was advertised in the local newspaper, posted on our website and on the door of the Authority’s Administration office for 30+ days. We took the required sample in October 2012. The sample showed we are meeting drinking water standards.

Definitions

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.

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 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.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):

Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion):

One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million):

One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique):

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

***Turbidity:** A measure of the cloudiness of the water and a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Lead and Copper samples were taken during 2012. Lead and copper in drinking water is primarily from plumbing materials.

Sampling Results: During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State allows us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included.

Regulated Substances	Year Sampled	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range Low - High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2012	4	4	1.34	1.21-1.41	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Flouride	2012	4	4	0.85	0.82+1.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additives that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum or factories.
TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes) (ppm)	2012	80		34.63	19.1-52.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2012			1.11	0.60-1.74	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2012			0.03	0.02-0.05	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly % of samples meeting limit)*	2012			100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Lead	2012	15		0.3	0-2.5	No	Plumbing materials
Copper	2012	1300		19.8	0-98	No	Plumbing materials

Excellence



Integrity



Stewardship



Commitment



Efficiency



Vision