

# City of Ringgold 2023 CCR

## Water System ID 0470002

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

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 90 contaminants as part of our commitment to ensure safe drinking water. As you were informed at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards for haloacetic acids (HAA5) last year. (For more information, see the section labeled "Violations and Exceedances" at the end of this report.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

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

The Ringgold Water Treatment Plant treats surface water from South Chickamauga Creek. During times of high demand, extreme drought, or other emergency conditions, the City of Ringgold also purchases water from Catoosa Utility District Authority (CUDA). They must meet or exceed the same strict quality regulations and requirements. You can view their complete consumer confidence report on their website <http://www.catoosautility.com>.

## **Source Water Assessment**

The City of Ringgold has developed a source water assessment plan to help identify and protect our source water from contamination. These documents are available for viewing at City Hall, located at 150 Tennessee St. Ringgold, GA 30736.

### **Why are there contaminants in my 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 (untreated) water include:

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 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## **How can I get involved?**

By visiting Ringgold City Hall, located at 150 Tennessee St. Ringgold, GA during regular business hours, 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays) or by visiting the city website at <http://www.cityofringgoldga.gov>, you can find information about upcoming city council meetings, and other events.

## **Description of Water Treatment Process**

Your water is treated in a “treatment train” (a series of processes applied in a sequence) that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals (coagulants) to form tiny sticky particles called “floc,” which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation (the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs) is achieved using gentle, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, charcoal, or other filters that remove even smaller particles. A small amount of chlorine or another approved disinfectant is then added to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community. The City of Ringgold uses chlorine as a disinfectant. As required, a small amount of fluoride is also added to help strengthen teeth.

## Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair, and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Running your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure the future generation uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

## Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and ensuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection, and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

## **Source Water Protection Tips**

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting it to a public wastewater system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## **Information for Lead and Copper**

The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections. 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. Ringgold water system 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>.

## Water Quality Data Table

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions in the following tables.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	2.49	1.20	2.49	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Halo-acetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	<b>64*</b>	31	64	2023	Violation	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT	NA	<b>0</b>	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	65	55	65	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.99	0.70	0.99	2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.42	0.42	0.42	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage,; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	0.30	0.12	0.04	0.26	2023	No	Soil runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.26. Any measurement above 1.0 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Amount Detected 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.14	06/2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	15	1.2	06/2023	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

#### Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.

#### Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.



<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest permissible level of a disinfectant in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level
<b>Violations</b>	
Violations And Exceedances	<p><b>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</b>  Haloacetic acids are created when a disinfectant such as chlorine comes in contact with organic material in the water. Some people who drink water containing HAA5 amounts above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Samples are collected from the distribution system and tested quarterly. Compliance is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA). Our quarterly sample in July 2023 was above the MCL and caused the LRAA to exceed the MCL. As you were made aware at the time, we are working hard to correct the issue. We have enhanced our treatment process to oxidize more organics from the water before chlorine is added, thus reducing the potential to from HAA5. We have also lowered the chlorine dosage at the treatment plant, and we have implemented a routine flushing of the distribution system to minimize potential HAA5 formation.</p> <p><b>Lead and Copper Rule</b>  The samples we collected in 2023 were not in violation of the lead and copper rule. However, the samples were to have been collected in 2022 (every 3 years), therefore a failure to monitor violation was issued on 3-1-2023. Because this violation was not a water quality violation, a public notice was not issued. The Lead and Copper analysis were conducted and results posted within this report above.</p>

**Water Plant and Distribution System Projects:**

**Water Treatment Plant Backup Power Generator** – Installation of a 600-kW generator will take place in 2025 to provide the Ringgold Water Plant with power redundancy to ensure continued water service in the event of a power outage.

**Peter’s Lane Water Line Replacement** – The City of Ringgold will contract out the replacement of 4,000 feet of water line to replace critical aging infrastructure that will provide

greater consistency to the water distribution system's ability to provide drinking water to our community.

**Poplar Springs Well Development** – The City of Ringgold will develop a new drinking water source to provide additional quality drinking water to the existing system.

**Water Treatment Plant Backwash Treatment** – The City of Ringgold will install a new tank system to capture the backwash water from the treatment plant filters and discharge this water into the sanitary sewer system.

**Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation** – The City of Ringgold is focused to provide filter rehabilitation and concrete structure rehabilitation at its water treatment facility.

**Water Treatment Facility Location:**



**For more information please contact:**

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