

# CITY OF ALMA

## 2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT

### Georgia Water System ID# 0050000

The City of Alma is pleased to present this report about our community's drinking water. The following report provides you with a detailed account of your water system. The City of Alma conducts laboratory tests from more than 80 drinking water parameters to ensure your water is safe. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Your groundwater is drawn from the Upper Floridian Aquifer by two wells located at West 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 32 West. Each of the wells and grounds around the wellheads are protected from activities that could potentially cause contamination of the water source. We perform fluoride treatment and chlorine disinfection at each well.

The City of Alma's wellhead protection ordinance protects our source water by the designation and regulation of property use and conditions near the wells. A copy of this ordinance may be obtained at the City of Alma Water Department.

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 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, which limit the amount 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.

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 for 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)**.

**Spanish (Espanola)**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tranduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

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 Alma 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**

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected based on the most current data. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the 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 a year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<b>Detected Inorganic Contaminants Table</b>							
<u>Parameter/units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Water System Results</u>	<u>Range of Detections</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>
Barium/PPM	2	2	0.11	0.11	2014	NO	Discharge from drilling waste, metal refineries, and erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine/PPM	4	4	0.7	0.3-1.1	2014	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Fluoride/PPM	4.0	4.0	0.8	0.4-1.3	2014	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

<b>Detected Organic Contaminants Table</b>							
Parameter/units	MCL	MCLG	Water System Results	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMS/ppb)	80	n/a	0	0	2014	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

<b>Lead and Copper Monitoring Results</b>							
Parameter/units	Action Level	MCLG	Water System Results	# of sample sites found above the action level	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead/PPB	15	0	0	0	2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper/PPM	1.3	1.3	0	0	2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

<b>Radionuclides Table</b>							
Parameter/units	MCL	MCLG	Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters/ pCi/L	15*	0	10	10	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226/ pCi/L	5*	0	2	2	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228/ pCi/L	5*	0	<1	<1	2012	No	Erosion of natural deposits

\* The MCL for alpha emitters is 4mrem/year. EPA considers 15 pCi/L to be the level of concern for alpha emitters including Radium 226 and/or 5 pCi/L for a combined Radium 226 and radium 228.

#### **Unit Descriptions:**

N/A – Not Applicable

ND – Not Detected

NR- Not Reported

MNR – Monitoring Not Required but Recommended

PPM – Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

PPB – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

PPT – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity)

TIE – Tentatively Identified or Estimated

#### **Important Terms & Abbreviations**

**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.”*

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

**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 microbial contaminants.”*

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** *“The level of 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.”*

Our water system has had no violations and your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

#### **State rules for Outdoor Water Use**

Under the State rules, Georgians will be required to follow schedules for outdoor water use. “Address” means the “house number” (a numeric or alphanumeric designation) that, together with the street name, describes a physical location of a specific property.

- **“Even numbered address”** means a house number ending with the number 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or no house number. **Outdoor watering is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, 12 midnight to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 12 midnight.**
- **“Odd numbered address”** means a house number ending with the number 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9. **Outdoor watering is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 12 midnight to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 12 midnight.**
- **Use of hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.**
- **Outdoor watering on Fridays is prohibited.**

A copy of this report may be obtained at the City of Alma Water Department. For more information about our water, you can contact Greg Simmons at 912-632-8316. The City Council meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at the Alma City Hall at 6:00 P.M. The public is welcome to attend.