

## Students Participate in Water Matters Poster Contest

The Water & Sewer Division sponsored our second annual Water Matters poster contest for DeKalb County elementary school students. Students were invited to draw a picture that creatively illustrated the theme, **Water Matters: Use It Wisely.**

The winners of the 2004 Water Matters Poster Contest are: **Quaylon Jackson**, a first-grader at Atherton Elementary School, **Shunya Ellison**, a third-grader at Atherton Elementary School, and **Demar Fountain**, a fifth-grader at Gresham Park Elementary School. The winners were recognized at the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 24.

The winning students received prizes donated by the Parsons Corporation. Each student who entered the contest received a certificate of participation.

To see the winning posters visit our website at: <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/watersewer>.



(l-r) DeKalb County CEO Vernon Jones, Commissioners Hank Johnson and Burrell Ellis, Public Works Associate Director Roy O. Barnes, Commissioners Larry Johnson, Elaine Boyer, Gail Walldorff, Judy Yates, and Lou Walker are joined by the 2004 Water Matters Poster Contest winners (l-r) Demar Fountain (fifth grade, Gresham Park Elementary School), Shunya Ellison (third grade, Atherton Elementary School), and Quaylon Jackson (first grade, Atherton Elementary School) at the February 24 Board of Commissioners meeting.



- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| nature      | protect       |
| recycle     | gasoline      |
| treatment   | hazardous     |
| drink       | clean         |
| pesticide   | water sources |
| oil         | toxic         |
| tap         | paint         |
| fertilizer  | safe          |
| batteries   | wells         |
| pollute     | leaks         |
| contaminate |               |

### Can you find these water words?

W	E	L	L	S	D	M	P	Q	S	V	F
L	A	B	O	T	P	O	L	L	U	T	E
H	Z	T	R	E	A	T	M	E	N	T	R
C	P	A	E	R	I	C	B	C	U	E	T
O	Y	P	C	R	F	E	N	L	K	D	I
N	A	H	Y	J	S	T	M	E	H	I	L
T	E	A	C	P	Z	O	C	A	L	C	I
A	F	Z	L	K	T	R	U	N	T	I	Z
M	A	A	E	D	O	P	E	R	B	T	E
I	S	R	I	X	X	N	W	G	C	S	R
N	M	D	P	A	I	N	T	S	L	E	V
A	B	O	I	L	C	F	S	M	O	P	S
T	F	U	O	D	R	I	N	K	T	E	S
E	D	S	L	M	O	H	J	L	A	M	R
P	A	T	B	A	T	T	E	R	I	E	S
G	K	U	E	F	N	A	T	U	R	E	L

#### DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS: JOIN US

- Regular meetings: second & fourth Tuesdays (Broadcast live on Channel 23)
- Work session meetings: first & third Tuesdays
- Watch the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Re-Broadcast :**
- Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday -- 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday -- 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday & Sunday (following meeting) -- 10:00 a.m.

#### Important Phone Numbers

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Billing/Water Cut-Off (8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.)</b> | <b>404-378-4475</b> |
| <b>Emergency Repair - 24 hours</b>                | <b>770-270-6243</b> |
| <b>Customer Service</b>                           | <b>770-621-7200</b> |
| <b>Telecommunications Device for the Deaf</b>     | <b>770-621-7237</b> |
| <b>Drinking Water Questions/Information</b>       | <b>770-936-5400</b> |

#### Copies of this Report

To obtain a copy of this report, please visit your local library or our website at <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/watersewer/>. Para obtener una copia de este reporte en Español, por favor visite su biblioteca local.



## Consumer Confidence Report on Water Quality

DeKalb County Public Works Department provides its customers with high quality, safe drinking water that surpasses the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements. In fact, DeKalb County has historically produced superior quality drinking water. This 2004 Drinking Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), provides a detailed account of all the monitoring data gathered from water quality testing during 2003. We are proud to provide the enclosed information.

For questions about this report and the quality of DeKalb County's drinking water, please call Jay Jones (Senior Chemist, Scott Candler Water Filter Plant) at 770-216-4950 or visit our website at <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/watersewer/>. Public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of drinking water is encouraged and welcomed. The public is invited to attend DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meetings (the schedule is listed on the back of this report). In addition, our website provides the latest news and information concerning our ongoing efforts to meet the county's growing demand for high quality drinking water.

### A Point of Pride

*For more than 60 years, DeKalb County's drinking water has surpassed all federal and state standards for safe drinking water. DeKalb County has never had a drinking water quality violation in its history.*

#### From the Associate Director



**Roy O. Barnes**  
Associate Director  
Public Works  
Water & Sewer Division

Each year the DeKalb County Water & Sewer Division publishes this report to provide our customers with details on the quality of our drinking water.

The Water & Sewer Division employees work hard to earn the confidence and trust of the 672,000 citizens that we serve. We want you to know that the water that comes into your home or business is of the highest quality. It's a point of pride for us that for more than 60 years, DeKalb County's drinking water has surpassed all federal and state drinking water safety standards.

I would also like to update you on the steps DeKalb County is taking and the investments being made toward the future. Construction on the expansion of the **Scott Candler Water Filter Plant Reservoirs** is scheduled to be completed in January 2005. Because of the county's growth, it was imperative that we add storage capacity and improve our treatment facility. We not only increased the storage capacity of the two existing reservoirs but also added a third reservoir — making the total water storage capacity one billion gallons.

Construction of the new **Scott Candler Water Filter Plant**, DeKalb's only drinking water production plant, is scheduled to be completed in September 2005. The original plant was erected more than 50 years ago, and by building a new water plant we will be able to employ the newest treatment technologies available.

For more details on our activities, we invite you to visit our website at <https://dklbweb.dekalbga.org/watersewer/> to learn more about the Water & Sewer Division. Our website contains details on current projects, and information on water resource issues and the services we provide. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

#### The Source of DeKalb's Water

The drinking water supply is withdrawn from the Chattahoochee River, which is located north of DeKalb County and upstream from the City of Atlanta. Water is



treated at the Scott Candler Water Filter Plant and then distributed to DeKalb County customers.

DeKalb County and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) have completed a source water assessment itemizing potential sources of pollution to the Chattahoochee River, your drinking water supply. The results of this assessment can be found on ARC's website at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/swap/> or you can request information by mail from the: Atlanta Regional Commission, Environmental Planning Division 40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

#### The Purpose of this Report

The U.S. Congress revised the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996, requiring public water systems to send annual CCRs to all of their customers. The DeKalb County Public Works Department supports this effort and is proud to present this CCR. This report is in compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. More information on these regulations is available on EPA's drinking water website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater), or from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

DeKalb County Drinking Water Quality Report 2004



# Testing the Quality of Drinking Water

Tap water is tested for various water quality parameters to ensure that the water is safe for people to drink. These parameters are selected by the EPA and the EPD, and are required by law.

DeKalb County drinking water is tested as often as hourly, 24 hours a day at the water treatment plant and five days a week throughout the distribution system.

The water is tested for chemicals and disease-causing microorganisms (bacteria and protozoa). All of the tests are conducted in compliance with every requirement set by



the EPA and the EPD. Tests are performed by, or under the supervision of State-certified operators or laboratory analysts.

One of the microorganisms of concern in surface waters is the protozoan, *Cryptosporidium*, which has never been detected in the DeKalb County drinking water. The County is working hard to ensure this protozoan never enters the drinking water. Ingestion of these protozoa may cause symptoms that include diarrhea, nausea, and/or stomach cramps. DeKalb County regularly monitors your drinking water for *Cryptosporidium*.

# Why Are There Contaminants in Drinking Water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Tap water comes from surface water (rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, or reservoirs) and groundwater (springs and wells). Bottled waters generally are from springs, wells, and public water systems. DeKalb County gets all of its

water for treatment from a surface water source, the Chattahoochee River.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water supplied by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. In cases where contaminants cannot be readily measured, EPA sets treatment

techniques proven to reduce the amount of contaminants to acceptable levels.

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 at 1-800-426-4791**.

## What May Be Present In Drinking Water Before It's Treated . . .

**MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS:** includes viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS:** includes salts and metals, naturally-occurring or from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic

wastewater discharges, oil/gas production, mining, or farming.

**PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES:** may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.

**ORGANIC CHEMICALS:** includes synthetic and volatile organic chemicals (by-products of

industrial processes and petroleum production, and also from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems).

**RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS:** naturally-occurring or result of oil/gas production and mining activities.

## Notice

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

# Understanding Water Quality Data

This table lists all the regulated drinking water substances that were detected during the 2003 calendar year. The presence of these substances in the water does not indicate that the water poses a health risk. In addition to the parameters listed, your drinking water was also tested regularly for other parameters, including approximately 128 organic chemicals and 25 inorganic chemicals. DeKalb County also conducts 457 daily production control tests, 365 days per year.

## Understanding the Terms in this Table

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

**BDL** = Below Detection Limit.

**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 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.

**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.

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of turbidity.

**ppm** = Parts per million: One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years or one penny in 10 thousand dollars.

**ppb** = Parts per billion: One part per billion is equivalent to one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in 10 million dollars.

**P/A** = Presence/Absence: Presence/Absence of total coliform; absence of less than 1 colony forming unit per 100 milliliters of drinking water.

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

**N/A** = Not Applicable

< : Less than.

> : Greater than or equal to.

## Regulated Chemicals Tested and Detected

Chemical	Units	DeKalb County Water		Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation	Likely Source
		Result <sup>a</sup>	Range of Detections				
Fluoride	ppm	0.9	0.4 to 1.9	4.0	4.0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	0.4	0.1 to 0.8	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine	ppm	1.23	0.98 to 1.55	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	NO	Water additive (disinfectant) used to control microbes.
Total Chloramines	ppm	0.05	BDL to 0.10	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (THMs)	ppb	51	33 to 61	80	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	28	20 to 31	60	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

## Copper and Lead Test Results from the Consumer's Tap

Chemical	Units	DeKalb County Water		Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation	Likely Source
		90th Percentile Value/Percent of Samples Exceeding the AL	Range of Detections				
Copper	ppm	0.0 / 0%	0 to 0.56	AL = 1.3	AL = 1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	ppb	9.2 / 4%	0 to 94	AL = 15	Zero	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

## Other Regulated Parameters and Micro-organisms

Parameter	Units	DeKalb County Water		Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Violation	Likely Source
		Result <sup>a</sup>	Range of Detections				
Turbidity (NTU)	NTU	0.91 <sup>b</sup>	0.01 to 0.91	TT = 1NTU	N/A	NO	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
		99.88%					
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	ppm	1.1	0.86 to 1.3	TT > 1 <sup>c</sup>	N/A	NO	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Coliforms	P/A	1.43% <sup>b</sup> per month	N/A	Not more than 5% per month	Zero	NO	Bacteria naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

This report includes data collected between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2003 by the DeKalb County Public Works Department.

The above contaminants are also regulated by the State of Georgia; the Georgia MCL and MCLG for these contaminants are the same as the listed EPA MCL and MCLG values. <sup>a</sup>Value represents the annual average unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup>Value represents the highest level detected. <sup>c</sup>TT = removal ratio of 1.0 or higher.