

CITY OF MILLEN
2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT
Georgia Water System ID Number: 1650000

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Summary of Water Quality Information

The **City of Millen** drinking water system is owned and operated by the City of Millen. The office address is 919 College Avenue, Millen, Georgia. If there are ever any comments or inquiries to be made, please feel free to contact **John R. Thomas** by phone at the number listed above.

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. The **City of Millen** is committed to providing your community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for everyone. For more information about your water or this report please call **Michael Felts**, City Manager, at 478-982-6100. This Water Quality Report is available at City Hall upon request or may be viewed on their web site at www.gajenkinscountytga.com.

Your water comes from four (4) community *groundwater* wells. All four (4) wells exceed 400 feet in depth. The water source for all four (4) wells is an unconfined *Coastal Plain Aquifer* and provides ample volumes of water for your community. These wells are located in the City of Millen: Well 101 is on Gray Street, Well 102 is on Walnut Street, Well 103 is on Magnolia Street, and Well 104 is located on Pine Street. These properties are protected from activities which could potentially cause contamination of the water source. Treatment is performed at the well to include removal of contaminants, chlorine disinfection, and the addition of fluoride.

A **Wellhead Protection Plan** for this facility has been completed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division. This report identifies any types of pollution to which your water supply could be vulnerable and includes information regarding potential sources of contamination in this watershed. **A copy of the Wellhead Protection Plan for this facility is available to the public at City Hall upon request.** This system is considered to be in the average susceptibility range for pollution. There are no cited potential pollution sources for either well within the control zone in a radius of fifteen (15) feet.

Cited potential pollution sources for **Well 101** within the inner management zone in a radius of 250 feet include access and secondary roads, electrical transformers, utility poles, vehicle parking areas, sewer lines, and dumpsters as well as a former auto dealer and two (2) auto repair sites. In addition to the potential pollution sources located within the inner management zone, the outer management zone, a radius of 882 feet, contains State routes 17 and 23, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, abandoned vehicles, abandoned commercial facilities, above ground storage tanks, as well as are cited. In addition to these sources there is the potential for storm water run-off, which can contain volatile organic compounds from parking areas and/or pesticides and herbicides from lawns.

Cited potential pollution sources for **Well 102** within the inner management zone in a radius of 250 feet include access and secondary roads, electrical transformers, utility poles, vehicle parking areas, sewer lines, dumpsters, abandoned commercial facilities, a generator for Well 102, an abandoned underground storage tank, and a diesel generator as well as the potential for storm water run-off, which can contain volatile organic compounds from parking areas and/or pesticides and herbicides from lawns. In addition to the cited potential pollution sources within the inner management zone, the outer management zone in a radius of 627 feet include abandoned vehicles, a fleet service facility, and State route 23.

Cited potential pollution sources for **Well 103** within the inner management zone in a radius of 250 feet include access and secondary roads, electrical transformers, utility poles, vehicle parking areas, sewer lines, a natural gas pipeline, and an industrial facility. In addition to the potential pollution sources cited within the inner management zone, within the outer management zone in a radius of 645 feet there are Georgia Route 67, a railroad, dumpsters,

abandoned vehicles, agricultural fields, and an industrial facility as well as storm water run-off potentially containing volatile organic compounds from parking areas or pesticides and herbicides from lawns and/or agricultural fields.

Cited potential pollution sources for **Well 104** within the inner management zone in a radius of 100 feet include access and secondary roads, electrical transformers, utility poles, vehicle parking areas, pastures, and storm water run-off potentially containing volatile organic compounds from parking areas or pesticides and herbicides from lawns and/or agricultural fields.

The **City of Millen** is required to monitor your drinking water for more than eighty (80) drinking water parameters on a regular basis at a frequency determined by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Drinking Water Program and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Generally, samples are collected in the **City of Millen** for analysis of inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, and lead and copper once in a three (3) year cycle whereas nitrates are sampled once a year. The State collects and analyzes samples for synthetic organic compounds once in a three (3) year cycle. Waivers may be issued for the analysis of synthetic organic compounds, cyanide, arsenic and/or asbestos because studies show that the distributed drinking water in this area is not vulnerable to contamination from these chemicals. If radiological results during the initial radiological monitoring period were below the detection limit, the sampling schedule of once every six (6) to nine (9) years may be utilized for radionuclides. Since radiological results during the initial radiological monitoring period were below the detection limit, the sampling schedule indicates sampling and analysis for radiological contaminants should occur in 2015.

On a daily basis, employees of the City monitor chlorine and fluoride residuals at all four (4) wells. On a monthly basis, four (4) drinking water samples are collected from twelve (12) locations throughout the city by City personnel for bacteriological analysis by **Altamaha Laboratories**. Semi-annually, samples are collected by the City for the analysis of specific conductance by **Altamaha Laboratories** at each well. The **City of Millen** is also participating in a voluntary monthly fluoride monitoring program in conjunction with the Georgia Public Health Laboratory Environmental Health Unit.

During 2015, the parameters for which samples were collected by the **City of Millen** and submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protections Division (EPD) for annual nitrate and nitrite analysis and analysis for volatile organic compounds as well as analysis for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. The City also collects four (4) samples each month for bacteriological analysis, which is conducted by **Altamaha Laboratories**, a subsidiary of **Tindall Enterprises, Inc.**, which a commercial laboratory certified for performing bacteriological samples on drinking water.

In addition to these regulatory samples, the **City of Millen** collected samples in June, 2013, to be analyzed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the third cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3). The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs).

We are proud to inform you that the City of Millen had no violations of water quality parameters during 2015. All detected contaminants, including UCMR3 contaminants, are delineated in the accompanying charts. Any constituents not listed in the accompanying charts had results less than the detection limits and/or maximum contaminant levels.

Even though the **City of Millen** had no violations of Lead and/or Copper during the most recent monitoring event, Lead and Copper analysis in single- and multi-family residences, municipal buildings, and commercial buildings indicates the presence of some service lines containing these contaminants. Results indicated **NO** sites sampled contained quantities of Lead or Copper which exceeded the action levels for these parameters. Lead and Copper may be found in household plumbing fixtures such as service lines, pipes, solders and fluxes as well as brass fixtures. Lead is found throughout the environment in the air, soil, water and household dust as well as in consumer products such as lead based paint, pottery and pewter. Lead and Copper enter drinking water as a result of the

corrosion or wearing away of materials containing these metals. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body.

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 Millen 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>.

To minimize exposure to Lead and/or Copper, the following measures may be taken.

- When your water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.
- Use cold water for drinking or cooking.
- Do not cook with or consume water from the hot water faucet.
- Do not use hot water for making baby formula.
- Use only “lead-free” solder, fluxes and materials in new household plumbing and repairs.

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. The EPA has established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL’s) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG’s) for potential contaminants. MCL’s are the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLG’s are the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety. **More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 at 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**, i.e. viruses and bacteria from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, i.e. salts and metals, 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**, 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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The City of Millen strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, improvements that benefit the community must be made. Please help keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices.

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): *“The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG 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. MCLG’s 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.”*

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): reasonable goals for drinking water quality. Exceeding SMCL’s may adversely affect odor or appearance, but there is no known risk to human health.

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

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 microbiological contaminants.”*

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

Not Detected (ND): By regulation, this substance or group of substances was tested for in our finished tap water; however, none was detected at the testing limit.

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes): One or more of the organic compounds Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, and/or Bromoform.

HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids): One or more of the organic compounds Monochloroacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Trichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, and Dibromoacetic Acid.

NA: Not applicable to this contaminant

ppb or ug/l: parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppm or mg/l: parts per million or milligrams per liter

pCi/l: picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation