CITY OF LENOX
2019 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Georgia Water System ID #: GA0750002

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Summary of Water Quality Information

The **City of Lenox** drinking water system is owned and operated by the **City of Lenox**. The facility office is located at 15 East Colquitt Avenue in Lenox, Georgia. If there are ever any comments or inquiries to be made, please feel free to visit the City Hall or contact Teresa Barber, City Clerk, during regular working hours.

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 Lenox** is committed to providing your community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. For more information about your water or this report please call Teresa Barber. **A copy of this report will not be mailed to individual consumers but is available at City Hall upon request.**

Your water comes from four (4) community *groundwater* wells within the City of Lenox. Well 101 is located on Broad Street, well 102 is located at the corner of Haines Road and Gray Avenue, well 103 is located on Hwy 41 S., and well 104 is located on Brad Street. Three (3) of the wells derive water from the unconfined Coastal Plain aquifer, while the fourth taps into the confined Coastal Plain aquifer, all of which provide ample volumes of water for your community. Any necessary treatment, such as the removal of contaminants or addition of disinfectant, is performed at the well sites.

All sites are protected from potentially contaminating activities through the implementation of a ***Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP)*** issued by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GA DNR EPD). The ***WHPP*** identifies sources of pollution which could potentially contaminate the water supply. There are no cited potential pollution sources within 15-foot control zone for any of the four (4) wells. Cited potential pollution sources within the 250-foot radius inner management zone of all four (4) wells include electrical transformers, utility poles, vehicle parking areas, sewer lines, access roads, secondary roads, and storm water run-off. Additional cited pollution sources for include abandoned vehicles for well 102; highway U.S. Route 41 for well 103; and agricultural fields and domestic septic systems for well 104. The complete ***WHPP*** **is available upon request at the facility office.**

The **City of Lenox** water system is tested for more than eighty (80) drinking water parameters on a periodic basis determined by the GA DNR EPD Drinking Water Program and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Sampling/testing schedules are based on initial contaminant level assessments and can be changed if deemed necessary. Waivers may be issued for the analysis of any of the mentioned compounds, if analytical data shows that the distributed drinking water in this area is not vulnerable to contamination from these chemicals. Generally, samples are collected from designated sites for the analyses of volatile organic, synthetic organic, and inorganic compounds, lead, and copper at least once in a three (3) year cycle. Nitrate-nitrites, trihalomethanes, and total haloacetic acids levels are analyzed annually and bacteriological contaminants are monitored monthly. Based on contaminant level assessments, the **City of Lenox** is also required to monitor radionuclides at a frequency between six (6) and nine (9) years.

During 2019, **City of Lenox** water system was tested for the presence of bacteriological content, nitrate-nitrite, volatile organic compounds, radionuclides, total trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids. **We are pleased to inform you that The City of Lenox did not have any violations of water quality parameters during 2019. All detected 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.**

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it has been shown to contain low levels of arsenic in routine sampling events. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Analyses of lead and copper were not performed during 2019, however it is important for you to know about the results from the most recent testing cycle. During the last sampling event, ten (10) representative locations throughout your community were sampled and analyzed for lead and copper content. Detectable levels of lead and copper were found in some of the analyzed samples, indicating the presence of some service lines containing these contaminants. However, **NO** sampled site exceeded the action level limit for either lead or copper.

Lead and copper are metals naturally found throughout the environment in soil and water. These metals can also be found in lead, copper, or brass household plumbing pipes and fixtures. Even consumer products such as paints, pottery, and pewter can contain lead and/or copper. Corrosion or deterioration of lead or copper-based materials, as well as erosion of natural deposits can release these metals into the drinking water.

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 Lenox** *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.*

Additionally, the following measures may also be taken to minimize exposure to lead and/or copper:

- 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 be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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.**

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*** such as viruses and bacteria which 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 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, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive contaminants*** 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 Lenox** *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

CITY OF LENOX WATER SYSTEM
2019 WATER QUALITY DATA
WSID: GA0750002

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that have been detected in your drinking water. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in this table is from testing done during the year noted. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) require monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

DETECTED INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Parameter	Units	MCL [SMCL]	MCLG	Lenox Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic	ppb	10	**	6	0 to 6	2017	No[1]	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.095	0.063 to 0.095	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.33	0.33 to 0.33	2019	No	Water additive used for control of microbes
Fluoride	ppm	5 [2]	4	0.51	0.44 to 0.51	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

DETECTED ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Lenox Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	**	ND	NA	2019	No	By product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs	ppb	80	**	12.0	12.0 to 12.0	2019	No	By product of drinking water disinfection

OTHER DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Parameter	Units	MCL [SMCL]	MCLG	Lenox Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	ppm	**	**	45	19 to 45	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING RESULTS

Parameter	Units	Action Level	MCLG	Lenox 90th Percentile	# of sample sites above Action Level	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead	ppb	15	0	1.3	0 of 10	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0.031	0 of 10	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

MICROBIOLOGICAL MONITORING RESULTS

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Lenox Number of Positive Samples	Positive Sample Date (Month)	Sample Year	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform	Present/	1*	0	0	NA	2019	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	Absent	0	0	0	NA	2019	No	Human and animal fecal waste

RADIONUCLIDES TABLE

Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Lenox Water System Results	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation No/Yes	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	15	0	7.44	7.44 to 7.44	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5	0	1.88	1.88 to 1.88	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Parameters, values, and/or sources may vary

***Total Coliform Rule MCL= 1 positive sample for systems that collect < 40 samples a month**

****No established MCL, SMCL, or MCLG**

[1] While your drinking water meets EPA standards, it does contain low levels of arsenic; see full Water Quality Report for information regarding possible health effects.