



**2010 Drinking Water Quality Report  
Town of Williamston  
Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)  
S.C. DHEC# 0410010  
May 1, 2011**



We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Town of Williamston purchases its water from Anderson Regional Joint Water System ( DHEC # 0420011) located on beautiful Lake Hartwell. Lake Hartwell provides an excellent source of surface water.

**I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **David Rogers at (864) 847-7473**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled council meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

Este informe contiene informacion sobre el agua que usted bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Town of Williamston routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Action Level (AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Parts per million (PPM) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

**TEST RESULTS – Town of Williamston**

| Contaminant | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | Unit Measurement | # Sites Exceeding AL | Action Level | Year Sampled | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| Copper      | 0.016                       | PPM              | 0                    | 1.3          | 2008         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |

**TEST RESULTS FOR 2010– Anderson Regional Joint Water System**

| Contaminant | Violation Y/N | Highest Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCL G | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|-------|-----|---|
| Fluoride    | N             | 0.48                   | PPM              | 4     | 4   | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |

*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.*

| Inorganic Contaminants         | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---|
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 2010            | 0.14                   | 0.14 – 0.14              | 10   | 10  | PPM   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |

## What does this mean?

As you can see by the above tables, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water *IS SAFE* at these levels. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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:

- 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 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 agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential users.
- 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.

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.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the general public. 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).

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 Town of Williamston 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 drinking 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Assessment and Protection Plans (SWAP) were completed for all public water systems in South Carolina in May 2003. SWAP's among other things, identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies. The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control has completed the plans for all SC public water systems. A copy of this assessment report can be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Water in Columbia, SC at (803) 898-4300 or on the web at <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/srcwtr.htm>

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We at the Town of Williamston work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect their water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Also we ask that you report any suspicious activity in and around local water utilities immediately by calling 911. We have to remain vigilant.

Please call David Rogers at (864) 847-7473 or email me at [davidrogers@williamstonsc.us](mailto:davidrogers@williamstonsc.us) should you have any questions.