FORT GORDON 2003 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The following *Consumer Confidence Report* contains information about your drinking water: its source, how it is treated, and most importantly, its quality. While most of the content is required by regulation, we also include information that responds to typical questions our customers ask about the system. Why send you this information? We think it is important for you to know what is in the water you drink. Every effort has been made to provide the information in a clear and useful format because we support the public's right to know the results of our water quality monitoring.

What is a Consumer Confidence Report??

In 1996, Congress amended the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It added a provision requiring that all community water systems (serving at least 15 service connections and/or 25 people year round) deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report. *Consumer Confidence Reports* summarize information that your water system already collects to comply with regulations. This *Consumer Confidence Report* (CCR) includes information on your source water, the levels of any detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules; as well as some educational material. Fort Gordon is permitted by the State of Georgia as a public water system (Permit Number CS 2450028).

Where Does My Water Come From??

Fort Gordon's drinking water is obtained from surface water in the Butler Reservoir, an impoundment on Butler Creek. The Butler Water Supply Watershed is located at the northeast side of Fort Gordon and covers 8,292 acres, including portions of Fort Gordon, Augusta – Richmond County, Columbia County, and the City of Grovetown. Fort Gordon has developed a Watershed Management Plan to protect water quality by the use of vegetative buffers. The development and review of the plan has been a joint process between Augusta – Richmond County, Columbia County, Fort Gordon, and the City of Grovetown. The Watershed Management Plan was developed to comply with environmental planning criteria for water supply watersheds under the Georgia Rules for Environmental Planning.

What Should I Know About My Water??

Sources of drinking water (i.e., tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land surface or underground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals. In some cases, water can pick up radioactive material, or substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Although our water supply may contain some of these contaminants, it is important to know that these substances are either removed completely or reduced to a safe level before water arrives at your tap. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ✓ **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment facilities, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife
- ✓ **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming
- ✓ **Organic Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems
- ✓ **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses
- ✓ **Radioactive Contaminants**, which may occur naturally or result from oil and gas production, and mining activities

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgates regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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How Do We Make Your Water Safe To Drink??

Prior to entering the Fort Gordon Treatment and Distribution System, raw water from Butler Reservoir flows through a series of bar racks and screens designed to remove large debris that can damage our treatment facility. Our plant uses a series of conventional water treatment processes including coagulation (causes contaminants to clump together), flocculation (increases the size of the clumps), sedimentation (settles the clumps from the water), rapid sand filtration (removes smaller particles and contaminants), and chlorination (disinfects the treated water). Our plant is designed to produce approximately 5.2 million gallons of water per day. The finished water is tested several times a day to ensure that pH and chlorine residuals are at appropriate levels.

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, we routinely sample for a variety of required drinking water contaminants. Fort Gordon has been granted a monitoring waiver from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for the monitoring of asbestos, dioxin, cyanide, and 28 synthetic organic compounds. The waiver was granted to Fort Gordon for complying with all of the baseline monitoring requirements for the parameters. Chemical analytical results of the system's water samples, and a vulnerability assessment prepared by Georgia EPD demonstrate that our drinking water complies with the chemical monitoring requirements of the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act. We are confident that we are providing you with the highest quality product available.

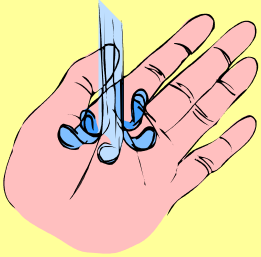
Do I Need To Take Special Precautions??

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 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 those who are undergoing chemotherapy, have undergone organ transplants, or contracted HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly; and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The above individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (1-800-426-4791).

What's Really In My Drinking Water??

EPA requires that water treatment/distribution systems must monitor for certain parameters, referred to as *regulated contaminants*. The following table lists *regulated contaminants* that were detected in your water. All substances were detected in quantities less than the EPA's limits for safe drinking water. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. If you would like more information about contaminants and potential health effects, please call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4291.



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Type of Contaminant	Maximum Level Detected	Range	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Microbial Contamination						
Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.03-0.3	TT	NA	No	Soil runoff
Organic Chemicals						
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)[1]	68.0	26.6-68	60	NA	No[2]	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)[1]	78.9	41-78.9	100	NA	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Chemicals						
Fluoride (ppm)	1.1	0.14-1.53	4	4	No	Additive used to promote strong teeth
Lead (ppb)	90% = 2.5	ND-16	AL = 15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	90% = 130	ND-310	AL = 1300	1300	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppb)	220	NA	NA	NA	No	Natural or background sources, or alum
Sodium (ppb)	2000	NA	NA	NA	No	Natural or background sources

[1] These entries are quarterly averages. We are in the process of adding new technology to our water system in order to consistently remain below the MCL for Haloacetic Acids. Annual Average for HAA5 is 50.9 for 2003. Annual Average for TTHM is 61.8 for 2003.
[2] MCL is based an annual average.

Terms and Abbreviations Used in the Table:

- ✓ **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ✓ **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 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.
- ✓ **Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU):** A measure of cloudiness in water.
- ✓ **Not Applicable (NA):** When NA is used in the range column, only one sample was taken, therefore, no range exists.
- ✓ **Not Detectable (ND):** The contaminant is below the detectable limits of the testing method.
- ✓ **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- ✓ **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- ✓ **Treatment Technology (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Monitoring/Reporting Requirements Not Met

The Fort Gordon Water System exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic acids (HAA5) for two quarters of 2002.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We conduct quarterly monitoring for Haloacetic acids. Two quarters of 2002 were above the MCL of 60 parts per billion. The second quarter was 64.6 and the third quarter was 60.8. The MCL currently established by the US EPA is 60 parts per billion, based on an annual running average covering any four consecutive quarters.

Some people who drink water-containing HAA5 in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. Residents should not be alarmed and do not need to seek alternative water supplies.

What happened?

The new Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule went into effect January 1, 2002, limiting Haloacetic levels to 60 parts per billion. Chlorine is added to the water Fort Gordon draws from Butler Reservoir to eliminate disease-causing organisms. Halogenated, organic, disinfection byproducts are formed when natural organics in this water react with the chlorine. Necessary increased chlorine dosage last summer resulted in a slightly increased byproduct formation, causing us to exceed the annual average by 0.5 parts per billion.

What is being done?

In our ongoing effort to reduce HAA5 levels in the distribution system, we are planning to upgrade our water treatment plant's disinfection process. Through these progressive, disinfection process modifications we will attempt to lower chlorine levels without jeopardizing microbiological water quality.

Lowered chlorine byproduct levels are one of many new stringent requirements. It is Fort Gordon’s goal to work diligently to meet these requirements and still deliver safe water.

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Web Sites for Information About Drinking Water and the Environment:

- ✓ EPA Home Page - http://www.epa.gov
- ✓ EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water - http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw
- ✓ EPA's Drinking Water and Health: What You Need to Know - http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth.html
- ✓ EPA Drinking Water Activities for Kids - http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/index.html
- ✓ United States Geologic Survey (USGS) Water Resources Education - http://water.usgs.gov/education.html
- ✓ EPA Explorer's Club - http://www.epa.gov/kids/
- ✓ United States Drug Administration (USDA) Water Quality Information Center - http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/#3
- ✓ International Bottled Water Association Website - http://www.bottledwater.org

If you have any questions about this report or are interested in learning more about the drinking water system at Fort Gordon, please contact Mr. John Wellborn, Water Program Manager, Environmental and Natural Resources Office at (706) 791-6237. You may also call Ms. Lynn Grubb at the Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Drinking Water Program in Atlanta, GA at (404) 657-3189.

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