

**CITY OF COCHRAN- CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT  
2023 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT WSID0230000**

The City of Cochran Water Department is pleased to report that our drinking water meets and/or exceeds the regulations as set by the State of Georgia and Federal Governments. Included in this report is important information in regard to your water quality, where it comes from, the parameters of detected contaminants and how our water compares to those parameters as set by State and Federal regulatory agencies. The contaminants that were detected in our drinking water are listed in this report. Last year, the City of Cochran conducted tests for more than 80 water parameters to ensure the water we provide to our customers is safe. Our Water Department is committed to providing our community with a sufficient quality of clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. For more information about our drinking water program or this Consumer Confidence Report contact Greg Craft at (478)-934-6346 Ext 401. The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels off the surfaces of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and/or human activity. The City of Cochran gets its water from four municipal wells. Well #2, located on Ash Street, is approximately 500 feet deep. Well #3, located on West Dykes Street, is approximately 375 feet deep. Well #4, located on Vernon Road, is approximately 650 feet deep. Well #5, located on Ann Street, is approximately 250 feet deep. This water source is commonly called the Upper Floridian Aquifer and provides ample volumes of water for our community. The characteristics of this water source do not change as rapidly as surface water. The City of Cochran owns these well sites, and property is protected by City of Cochran ordinances, which prohibit certain types of activities that could contaminate this water source. Water treatment is performed at each of these sites by State of Georgia licensed Class III Water Operators. This treatment includes disinfecting with chlorine, fluoride treatment, and removal of contaminants. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advantages of the 20th century. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of some contaminants does not necessarily indicate that drinking water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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 healthcare 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 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment includes Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, 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 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 a by-products of industrial processes and petroleum productions, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas productions and mining activities. 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 or components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Cochran 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 (yard faucet) for 2 to 5 minutes before using 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, test methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). The City of Cochran Water System is a vital part of our community and drinking water is our most precious commodity. Therefore, it is meaningful for the community to work together to conserve and protect our source water as well as our drinking water. In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, samples are pulled, laboratory tests are conducted, and the EPA prescribes regulations which governs these activities and limits the number of certain contaminants in water provided by a public water system. The FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which through our monitoring and testing some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that our water is SAFE at these levels. \*The EPD has detected that the contaminants of certain water quality monitoring parameters do not change frequently within our system; therefore, some of the data represented in this report are greater

than 1 year old. \*\* The MLC for beta panicles is four mrem/year. EPD considers 50 pCi/l as the level of concern for beta particles, MLC's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the current MCL levels for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having the described health effects. \*\*\* A memorandum signed May 4, 1999, by Mr. Harold F. Rehls, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, states that former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes has approved a special variance for community water systems which serve less than 10,000 consumers. Since our system serves less than 10,000 consumers, the City of Cochran chooses to exercise this option and not mail the Water Quality Annual Report to each customer. The city will publish the report in the local newspaper. The report will be available upon open records request at City Hall, 112 West Dykes Street Cochran, Georgia 31014. The City of Cochran Water Department works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap in our system. We ask that our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

**Regarding PFAS Compounds**

Safe drinking water is very important to any community and the City of Cochran is committed to keeping the City's water supply safe for all. The City of Cochran continually monitors and tests the City's water supply to ensure its safety and to meet all federal and state regulatory requirements.

**Additional Water Monitoring and Testing Required**

During 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated additional monitoring and testing of all public water systems serving populations of 3,300 or more regarding currently unregulated Perfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is ensuring that all Georgia public water systems understand and comply with EPA's additional water testing mandates regarding PFAS.

**What are PFAS?**

PFAS compounds are commonly referred to as "forever chemicals" and are comprised of man-made synthetic chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. These chemicals were popular due to their oil-repellant traits, but it also means the chemicals remain in the environment due to their inability to breakdown or deteriorate over time, hence the name "forever chemicals." PFAS compounds are commonly found in the environment and sometimes even in people's blood. The amount detected varies all over the United States.

PFAS chemicals have been released into the air, soil, and water from manufacturing and processing facilities, production of products, military installations, and many other sources. PFAS chemicals were also incorporated into home products such as non-stick cookware, fabric protectors, waxes, and paints. There are now rules and regulations in place that eliminated the use of PFAS chemicals from U.S. manufacturing processes, but these chemicals remain in our environment and make their way into U.S. waterways and ultimately through water filter plants.

**How is PFAS Measured?**

PFAS compounds are measured in parts per trillion. 1 part per trillion (ppt) is equivalent to one drop of water in a pool the size of a football field that's 43 feet deep, or 1 drop in 1 trillion gallons.

**City of Cochran Additional Water Testing Results**

Based on the EPA mandate and EPD follow-up, the City of Cochran tested for PFAS compounds during mid-2023. During that testing event, PFAS compounds were detected in the City's water system. Those testing results are as follows:

<b>PFAS Compound</b>	<b>UCMR 5 Minimum Reporting Levels (MRL) (ppt)</b>	<b>Sample Result Detected at City of Cochran Locations (ppt)</b>	<b>Locations</b>
PFOA	4.0	Below MRL	Ann Street Well Plant
PFOS	4.0	9.8	Ann Street Well Plant

HFPO-DA (GenX)	5.0	Below MRL	Ann Street Well Plant
PFBS	3.0	3.2	Ann Street Well Plant

Based on the above testing results, the City of Cochran is notifying the public that PFAS compounds have been detected in the City’s water system. This notification is exclusive to the City of Cochran water system customers and water customers of the City who may be located outside the City limits. It does not include any other public or private water systems located within Bleckley County.

**What is the City of Cochran doing about PFAS?**

The City of Cochran has been proactive in identifying PFAS compounds in the City’s water supply system and determining the best methods to treat these compounds.

Beginning in January 2024, the City of Cochran has implemented a water monitoring plan consisting of water testing at the City’s well locations and those listed above to determine if the water test results are consistently above EPA’s advisory levels. So far this year, testing results have not exceeded EPA’s advisory levels. If well test results begin to consistently exceed EPA advisory levels, the City will work with its water engineering consultant to prepare a long-term plan to control the levels of PFAS in the City’s water system.

**Do you have questions?**

- The Georgia EPD has created an informational website explaining PFAS at this link: [GA EPD PFAS Information](#).
- The U.S. EPA PFAS information can be found at this link: [US EPA PFAS Information](#)
- For more local information about the City of Cochran PFAS program, contact Willie Farrow, City of Cochran Public Works Director, at (478) 934-6346.