

Meeting the Challenge

This report is a snap shot of all water quality monitoring performed from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. We have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We continually strive to adopt new and better methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Public Participation

Our board meets the third Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Water Authority Office. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

For More Information

For more information concerning your water quality visit www.myhcwa.com, call the main office at 706-675-3358, or Matthew Dean at 706-675-6435.

Important Health Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) sets regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Water Source

Your water comes from Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks and is chemically treated and filtered to remove impurities commonly found in surface waters. Chlorine is then added for disinfection, fluoride is added to help prevent dental decay, and a corrosion control inhibitor is also added. Source water assessment information may be obtained from the Heard County Water Authority Office at 706-675-3358. The potential pollution sources for surface water from Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks within a 7 mile radius includes; a contaminated landfill facility, landfills, railways adjacent to or on bridges crossing over streams and roads adjacent to or bridges crossing over streams. The potential pollution source for surface water within a 20-mile radius is an airport. The overall level of susceptibility for the Heard County Surface Water Intake (WSID #1490000) is Medium for both Centralhatchee and Hillabahatchee Creeks.

Sources of Drinking Water

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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also, come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

2023 Water Quality Report

Heard County Water Authority

WSID#1490000



Board of Directors

Loy Howard

Rick Jones

Lynda Tucker

Shane Cammon

Connie Nelms

Water Quality Data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Substance (units)	MCL in mg/L (ppm)	MCLG	Average Results	Range of Detections	Does it Meet Standard	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	4.0	4.0	1.58	1.15 – 1.97	Yes	Added to the water as a disinfectant
Total Coliform	2 positive sample/month	N/A	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0.08	N/A	.048	.027 - .061	Yes	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0.06	N/A	.062	.042 – 1.06	No	By-product of disinfection by chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT	N/A	1.16	.92 – 1.60	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Fluoride	4.0	2.0	.78	.33 – .94	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Turbidity (NTU)	TT TT	N/A TT	.09 100% < 0.3	.02 - .29 N/A	Yes	Soil runoff and erosion

Lead and Copper - Tap water samples were collected from 20 sample sites throughout the water system. HCWA is on reduced monitoring and samples every 3 years. Last sampling for Lead and Copper was completed in 2022.

Substance (units)	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th Percentile)	# of Sites above Action Level	Does it Meet Standard	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	N/A	1.1	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppm)	1.3	N/A	0.2	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Violation

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for haloacetic acids (HAA5s) is calculated based on locational running averages (LRAA) of samples collected from the last four (4) quarters. Testing results from the 1st, 3rd, and 4th quarters of 2023 sampling showed that our system exceeded the MCL for HAA5s. The standard for HAA5s is .06 ppm. Our HAA5 level at site #502 was .065 ppm (1st Q), .072 ppm (3rd Q), and .062 ppm (4th Q). HAA5s are a group of chemicals that are formed along with other disinfection byproducts when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. We are working to minimize the formation of HAA5s while ensuring an adequate level of disinfection to protect customers from exposure to bacteria.

Health Effects Language

“Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.”

Table Definitions

AL-Action level: the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal—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

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level—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 treatment technology.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfection Level—the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ppb: parts per billion or milligrams per liter (corresponds to one minute in 2,000 year)

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (corresponds to one minute in two years)

TT: Treatment Technique- a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

N/A: Not Applicable

Lead in 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. Heard County Water Authority 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>