



# 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

## Oak Ridge Water System (WSID #1870077)

The **LUMPKIN COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (LCWSA)** is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality monitoring covering all testing completed between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

**Espanol:** Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Where does my water come from?** The water supply for this water system comes from groundwater wells that draw from a fractured crystalline rock aquifer.

**Source water assessment and its availability:** The groundwater wells that provide the water supply for this water system are protected by a Georgia Wellhead Protection Plan as prepared by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. To obtain a copy of the wellhead Protection Plan, please contact the Lumpkin County Water and Sewer Authority Office.

**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.

Before going through the Water Treatment Process (which is described on the following page),

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 by-products 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

**Description of Water Treatment Process:** The water supplied by this water system is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

**Protective Regulations:** In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Substances that could be in Tap Water:** 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 (800-426-4791).

**Important Health Information:** 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Additional Information for Lead:** 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. LCWSA 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>.

**How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?** Public participation and comment are welcome at regular meetings of the LCWSA Board of Directors which meet monthly as announced the Dählonega Nugget and on the Lumpkin County website.

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## Water Quality Data Table

**Sampling Results:** The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of regulated substances such as biological, radiological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State allows us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions after the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Amount Detected	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	1.21	.43	1.58	2019	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	17.1	1.1	17.1	2019	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Amount Detected	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	N/A	1.3	.19	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	N/A	15	5.75	2017	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

<b>Unit Descriptions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
N/A	N/A: not applicable
N/D	N/D: not detected

<b>Important Drinking Water Definitions</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
MCLG	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	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**For more information please contact:**

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