

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in St. Marys Water System WSID: GA0390001 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violation for Bacterial Content November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period of November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015, results indicated two (2) positive samples for Total Coliform. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month/5 percent of samples may be positive for Total Coliform.

Our facility is required to collect twenty (20) drinking water samples to be analyzed for bacterial content every month. Two (2) samples collected for the month of November tested positive for Total Coliform. This resulted in a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation for the month of November. The sample were immediately transferred to the Fecal and E-coli test and the results were negative for both. The required six (6) repeat samples and two (2) samples from the ground water sources were collected. ALL repeat and groundwater source samples indicated **NO Total Coliform** bacteria were present. Public Notification was posted for the November violation

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. **Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What is being done?

The City of St. Marys Water Department will continue to strive to ensure that the proper treatment and quality of the drinking water meets health standards.

For more information, please contact Wayne Broxton at 912-467-8929 at 418 Osborne Rd. St. Marys, Georgia 31535 between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM on week days.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This notice is being sent to you by the City of St. Marys Water Department.

State Water System ID#: GA0390001

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