

# 2023 Water Quality Report

## Gaston Rural Community Water District

### System # 3220002

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is 8 wells in the Gaston Rural Community Water District service area.

A Source Water Assessment Plan has been prepared for our system. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Steven Spires at 803-794-2819. We want you, our neighbors and valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. Feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings on the third Monday of each even month at 7:00 pm at the water office. 1133 Mack Street, Gaston S. C.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. Gaston Water District routinely monitors constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes and chemicals. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. In this table you will find the following terms and abbreviations:

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Parts per million (ppm)** or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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. MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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.

**Picocuries per liter (pci/L)** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Gaston Rural Community Water District #3220002**

LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2023	1.3	1.3	0.221	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2023	0	15	5.0	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS								
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	0.46	0.3-0.46	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive that is used to control microbes.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Mercury	2023	0.23	0.23 - 0.23	2	2	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2023	2.4	0.9 - 2.4	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2022	4.19	0 - 4.19	0	50*	mrem /yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	2023	3.06	0.33 - 3.06	0	5	pCi/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2023	5.29	0 - 5.29	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

\*The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/L, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required.

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<b>Other Substances Monitored in Drinking Water</b>		
NAME	REPORTED LEVEL	RANGE Low - High
Sodium 2023	32.0 ppm	32.0 - 32.0
NAME	REPORTED LEVEL	RANGE Low - High
Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) 2023	0.0015 ppb	0.99 - 1.43

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring, or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**If you have special health needs--**

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. Gaston Rural Community Water District 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 drinking 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>.

Please call our office if you have any questions.

**Handy Tips to Conserve Water**

- \*Take shorter showers
- \*Only do full loads of wash
- \*Run dishwasher when fully loaded
- \*Water lawn & garden as needed, early A.M.

**Emergency Numbers**

803-794-2819  
803-603-6444

