

**CITY OF DONALSONVILLE  
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT  
OF WATER QUALITY – JUNE, 2018  
GA WATER SYSTEM I.D. NO. 2530000  
FOR REPORTING PERIOD:  
JANUARY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** During calendar year 2017, the period covered by this Water Quality Report for the citizens of the City of Donalsonville, the Water Department of the city collected and either conducted or had conducted all required laboratory tests for drinking water quality parameters. We are pleased to inform you that the City of Donalsonville did not have any violations of water quality parameters during 2017. The city contracts with the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to provide water quality testing services. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies. Your Water Department is committed to providing our community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for all of us. For more information about your drinking water, or about this report, please contact Steven Hicks, City Manager at (229) 524-2118.

**LOCAL WATER SOURCE:** The City of Donalsonville is located in north central Seminole County near the intersection of Seminole, Early, and Miller counties, in the Dougherty Plain of southwest Georgia. The Dougherty Plain is a northeast-southwest orientated flat plain bounded on the northwest by the Fall Line Hills and to the southeast by the Tifton Uplands. Your drinking water comes from two (2) municipal groundwater wells located within the city. From the well logs of the two wells, the surface soil residuum or overburden varies from 41.5 to 55.0 feet thick, and is described as white, pink and brown clays with some sand streaks near the bottom. Investigation indicates that the clay residuum is compact and thick throughout the area. The surface soil residuum is underlain with Ocala limestone and is the only member of the Floridian Aquifer at this location in the Dougherty Plain. The thickness of the Ocala at Donalsonville has been estimated at 150 to 170 feet. The Ocala is comprised of upper and lower water bearing zones and is characterized as having primary and secondary porosity as well as solution channels or conduits. Large yielding wells can be found throughout the Dougherty Plain due to the abundance and rapid flow characteristics of this aquifer.

As mentioned above, the city currently operates two wells that supply the community. The operating wells are numbered as wells number #3 and number #4. Wells #1 and #2 were closed and abandoned by the city in years past. Well # 3 is located on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in the city. It is drilled to a depth of 174 feet, double-cased and grouted well into the Ocala Aquifer at 73 feet. The top of the multi-turbine pump sits at a depth of 75 feet in this well. The pumping rate of Well #3 is 1200 GPM. This well is equipped with a standby, diesel powered generator in the event of an electrical power outage. Well #4 is located on W.

Crawford St. (Hwy 39N) at the Old Jakin Road intersection. It is drilled to a depth of 177 feet, double-cased and grouted down to a depth of 85 feet. The top of the multi-turbine pump in this well is set at 95', 20' deeper than Well #3, for backup water supply in the event of severely reduced groundwater levels. The pumping rate of Well #4 is 1000+ GPM. In addition, the city has installed an automatic standby 310 KW diesel 3-phase generator at Well #4 to provide backup power for this well in the event of an extended power outage. Both wellheads are located in fenced and locked enclosures to provide wellhead protection and to protect against activities which could cause contamination of these water sources.

We are pleased to report to our consumers that the city completed construction of a new 300,000 gallon pedestal type elevated water storage tank that is located adjacent to Well #4 on West Crawford Street. This tank was placed into service in early 2005, and has been on-line throughout 2017. This tank more than doubles the city's water storage capacity, and it has helped to create a more stable, surge-free water delivery system throughout the city. Another important aspect of having a second water storage tank is that now that it is online, the city will have the flexibility to take the older tank out of service, as required, for the performance of major maintenance and painting.

**THE WATER DEPARTMENT** is an enterprise fund component of the municipal government of the City of Donalsonville that is directed by the Mayor and Council, which meets in regular session on the first Tuesday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the council room at City Hall. The public is always welcome and invited to attend and participate in these meetings

**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, however, to guard against the possibility that some form of harmful bacterial contaminant might be present within the water supply, the city is required to treat its water by injecting a closely monitored amount of chlorine into the water system at the point where water from the well is pumped into the distribution system. The water department continually monitors the injection process and also collects samples for lab analysis to determine that the correct balance of residual chlorine is maintained within the system. During 2017, chlorine residuals ranged from .20 mg/l to 1.27 mg/l, with an average residual level of .50 mg/l. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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 at (800) 426-4791.

**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 in a never-ending cycle, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of wildlife or domestic animals or from human activity including farming, mining, transportation, and industry.

**REMEMBER**, there is no new water. Rather, water is constantly being used and recycled.

A **MAJOR FLOOD EVENT** occurred in and around the City of Donalsonville in September of 2002 when approximately 20 inches of rainfall occurred during a period lasting perhaps only eight or ten hours. Approximately 225 homes and 65 businesses sustained flood damage. The only comparable event in recent history that in any way compared to the flooding that occurred during this year happened in 1948, some fifty-four years earlier. During the flooding event in September of 2002, flood waters surrounded well #3 on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and penetrated inside the pump house. When precautionary testing was performed immediately after the flood subsided enough to enter onto the premises, the well was found to have a slightly elevated level of total coliform bacteria present in the water, although no potentially harmful fecal coliform bacteria was detected. Nevertheless, in order to be certain that no harmful bacteria would enter the city's water system from this source, the well was taken out of service until it could be cleaned, decontaminated, and tested to verify that it produced only clean, drinking water quality water. The city has suffered no other such event since 2002.

**CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT** in source water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from Sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wild life.

- *Inorganic contaminants* such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or Resulting from urban storm 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 storm water 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, farm and urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and Gas production and mining activities.

**IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT TAP WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK**, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**YOUR WATER SYSTEM IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT** in the community. Our employees are involved in civic, church, school and other activities, and are pleased to offer information and speakers to the community on water protection and water treatment, as well as provide tours of our facilities.

**THE WATER MAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM** of the city exceeds 47 miles in length, and is constantly being improved and expanded to improve services to our customers. Another function of the water system is to provide water for fire protection. There are currently 220+ fire hydrants located throughout the system. The City of Donalsonville's Water Department is always looking for ways to improve its system to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water source. During recent years, the city's six inch water main that runs up N. Wiley Ave. has been looped into a new six inch main that was installed along N. Tennille Ave. (Hwy 91N). This main was an important accomplishment for the city in that it now provides a two-way feed to the Donalsonville Hospital area, and will result in fewer interruptions to service throughout the north part of the city when it is necessary to isolate parts of the system for repairs. During recent years, a city water main was extended southward from Crawford Street running parallel with Tennille Ave. beneath the railroad tracks to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and then continuing southward across 2<sup>nd</sup> street to a point where it was looped into a main running down 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Another main was then run westward along 1<sup>st</sup> Street behind the businesses located there, allowing water service from the rear of many of those buildings for the first time, and also allowing the installation of fire hydrants for increased fire protection along 1<sup>st</sup> Street in the central business district for the first time.

In addition, an upgrade of the city's water distribution system in the southeastern quadrant of the city was recently completed with larger mains and a number of additional fire hydrants having been installed to better support the needs of the citizenry, and also to provide much improved fire flow support. Many inadequate older 1" and 2" mains have and are being eliminated, and the water main system is being looped to provide even water pressure throughout the area. In addition, this system is being looped into a new 8" main that was installed during the past year to serve a 40 unit townhouse complex that was constructed at the south end of S. Friendship Avenue. Finally, a new 8" water main was installed beneath U.S. 84 and the CSX railroad near the S. Friendship Ave. intersection with U.S. 84 (E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street). This main replaces an older 6" main and ties into an existing 8" main on the north side of CSX RR and provides full flow by eliminating a choke point in the system.

## WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2016 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water 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, 2017 – December 31, 2017. EPD requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

### TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS USED BELOW:

- Maximum Contaminant Level 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.
  - Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
  - Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- n/a: not applicable – ND: not detectable at testing limit – ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter – ppm: parts per million or mg/l, milligrams per liter – pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Detected Inorganic Contaminants results							
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	2530000 water system results	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation No/YES	Typical source of contaminant
Fluoride	4	n/a	301-7th street	.46 mg/L		no	EARTH
Sodium	n/a	n/a	301-7th Street	3300 ug/L		no	EARTH
Fluoride	4	n/a	302-Ind Pk	.49 mg/L		no	EARTH
Sodium	n/a	n/a	302-Ind Pk	1800 ug/L		no	EARTH

Detected Organic Contaminants results							
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	2530000 water system results	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation No/YES	Typical source of contaminant
Total Xylenes	10,000	n/a	301-7th street	.44 ug/L	10/16/2017	no	
4-Bromofluorobenzene	3.92 to 6.28	n/a	301-7th street	NA	NA	no	
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	4.02 to 6.09	n/a	301-7th street	NA	NA	no	
Ethylbenzene	700	n/a	301-7th street	.22 ug/L	10/16/2017	no	
Total Xylenes	10,000	n/a	301-7th street	.56 ug/L	5/30/2017	no	
4-Bromofluorobenzene	3.92 to 6.28	n/a	301-7th street	NA	NA	no	
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	4.02 to 6.09	n/a	301-7th street	NA	NA	no	
4-Bromofluorobenzene	3.92 to 6.28	n/a	302-Ind Pk	NA	NA	no	
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	4.02 to 6.09	n/a	302-Ind Pk	NA	NA	no	

Lead and Copper Monitoring results							
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	2530000 water system results	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Action level No/YES	Typical source of contaminant
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 1	190 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 2	9 ug/l	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Lead	15	0	Site 2	1.3 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 3	70ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Lead	15	0	Site 3	1.4 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 4	13 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 5	67 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Lead	15	0	Site 5	2.6 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 6	37 ug/l	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 7	100 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 8	42 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 9	12 ug/L	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes
Copper	1,300	1300	Site 10	59 ug/l	7/20/2016	no	Corrosion in household pipes

Other Monitoring results							
Parameter	MCL	MCLG	2530000 water system results	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation No/YES	Typical source of contaminant
Nitrate/Nitrite in DW	10	n/a	301-7th street	1.63mg/L	11/15/2017	no	
Nitrate/Nitrite in DW	10	n/a	301-7th street	1.52mg/L	10/16/2017	no	
Nitrate/Nitrite in DW	10	n/a	302-Ind Pk	1.84mg/L	11/15/2017	no	
Nitrate/Nitrite in DW	10	n/a	302-Ind Pk	1.96mg/L	10/16/2017	no	
Decafluorobiphenyl SS	8.0 to 12.0	n/a	501-Juree Ln	NA	NA	no	
Chloroform	8.0 to 12.0	n/a	501-Juree Ln	3.83 ug/L	9/18/2017	no	
Dichlorobromomethane	8.0 to 12.0	n/a	501-Juree Ln	1.16 ug/L	9/18/2017	no	
Dibromochloromethane	8.0 to 12.0	n/a	501-Juree Ln	1.16 ug/L	9/18/2017	no	
SS-2-BPA	3.5 to 6.5	n/a	501-Juree Ln	NA	NA	no	

**Pesticides**

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Donalsonville	Range of	Sample	Violation
Typical Source of Contamination			Water System	detection	Date	
None Detected in Reportable Amounts					-0-	

**Herbicides**

Parameter	MCL	MCLG	Donalsonville	Range of	Sample
Violation	Typical Source of Contamination		Water System	detection	Date
None Detected in Reportable Amounts					

**About Nitrate:** Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. During calendar year 2017, city personnel drew water samples from both wells and submitted it to Environmental Resources Lab to be tested for nitrates and other parameters. The results of those tests indicated that no significant quantity of Nitrates/Nitrite in DW is present in the city's water supply. The city, in conjunction with its customers, also draws water samples from consumer drinking water



taps once each year and has those samples analyzed for lead and copper content. To date, no lead or copper content beyond trace amounts has been detected.

**Lead & Copper Rule:** The city is required to test samples drawn from at least ten drinking water source taps in the city each year for lead and copper content. The levels of lead and copper in samples tested to date have proven to be very low, with none testing at or above the EPA action level of 15 ppb. When lead or copper is found in tested water source taps, it is usually the result of the normal, gradual deterioration of plumbing systems and should not be cause for alarm, however, the following information is important to note:

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. The City of Donalsonville 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level of 1.3 ppm over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor for advice.

## **ABOUT LEAD:**

**Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?** The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. The city contracts with the Georgia EPD to perform its water testing program, and submits a minimum of three (3) drinking water samples each month, drawn from varying sources, for coliform analysis to be certain that our water is pure and free of harmful bacteria. In addition, twice during each calendar year, EPD personnel draw water samples from our wells and test them for more than 60 parameters required by EPA.

In addition to testing the water provided to our consumers to be certain that it is of the highest quality possible, the city treats the water it pumps into the system by injecting regulated amounts of chlorine into the water to eliminate any microbial contaminants that might leach into the aquifer and subsequently be withdrawn by the city's pumps. The city

also adds a small, regulated amount of fluoride to its finished water product to help to promote strong teeth for its consumers.

We believe that you, as a consumer, have every reason to be pleased with the results reported in this Water Quality Report for 2017. We are fortunate to have an abundant, clean and clear source of drinking water for our city. We must all be ever vigilant to protect our water resources against contamination from any source. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Steven Hicks, City Manager, at 229-524-2118 for more details. A copy of this report, along with the results of all tests performed during calendar year 2017 is available for inspection at City Hall. A free copy of this report, along with test data is also available upon request.

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