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***May 1, 2024***  
***Town of Tallulah Falls***  
***Water Quality Report – 2023***  
***GA Water System ID# 2410001***

This report is designed to give water consumers of the **Town of Tallulah Falls** information on their water quality and the testing carried out in 2023. Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. **American Water Services, Inc.** is committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for all. For more information about your water or this report please call our office at 706-348-6215.

**Your water comes** mainly from The City of Demorest Water System. The Town of Tallulah Falls also has two wells drilled deep into a rock aquifer. The water from these wells is treated with small amounts of chlorine for disinfection and ran through a water softener to treat for iron and manganese. A copy of the consumer confidence report created by the City of Demorest Water System has been appended should you have any questions about the source or quality of water from this supplier.

**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 of 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)**.

**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)**.

**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.

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

*\*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 metal, which can be naturally occurring or result 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 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.

**During 2016, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division prepared a Wellhead Protection Plan** on the water system for Tallulah Falls. This assessment lists all potential sources of contamination within a specific radius of all the wells supplying your water system. These potential sources include items such as electrical transformers and utility poles which contain chemicals and

preservatives. Also, non-domestic sewer systems lie within the management area and should be maintained to the standards set by the Rabun County Health Department. Tallulah Falls recommends to anyone with a domestic well in this area to protect their well from pollutants, conduct regular water quality testing, and make sure any abandoned well be properly grouted and plugged. Any abandoned or removed storage tank should be managed according to the Environment Protection Agency and any spills reported immediately. Storm water runoff from parking areas, highways, access and secondary roads, as well as, pastures and old railroads pose the risk of contaminants such as petroleum products, fertilizers, and pesticides. Tallulah Falls should recommend that all solid waste be disposed of properly in trash cans and dumpsters. There are nearby automobile and equipment repair shops that should use the best management practices. Any oil or hazardous fluids should be disposed of properly and any spills reported immediately. Additionally, any nearby springs should be managed according to the conditions of the permits for farm use of ground water and proper backflow prevention should be installed.

A copy of the complete plan is available for viewing in our office Monday thru Friday, 8 to 5. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

**In order to ensure 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, which must provide the same protection for public health.

**American Water Services, Inc.** strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit our entire community. Please help us keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices such as checking your home for leaks and installing low flow appliances.

## **WATER QUALITY DATA**

The table below lists all drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2023 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 these tables are from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2023. 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, is more than one year old.

### **Definition of Terms and Abbreviations Used in this Report**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

**\*NA:** not applicable **\*ND:** not detectable at testing limit **\*ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **\*ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **\*pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

### **Additional Lead Information:**

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. American Water Services 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>.

<b>Lead and Copper Monitoring Results</b>							
<u>Parameter /units</u>	<u>Action Level</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Tallahah Falls Results</u>	<u># of sample sites found above the Action Level</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0077	0	08-2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

<b>Microbiological Monitoring Results</b>							
<u>Parameter /units (present or absent of bacteria found in sample)</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Tallahah Falls Results</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>	
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	0 Positive	2023 Monthly	No	Naturally present in the environment	

<b>DISINFECTANTS</b>							
<u>Parameter</u>	<u>MRDL</u>	<u>MRDLG</u>	<u>Average Result</u>	<u>Range of detections</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
CHLORINE (ppm)	4.0	4.0	0.59	0.23-1.18	2023 Weekly	No	Water additive used to control microbes

<b>Other/Unregulated Containments</b>							
<u>Parameter /units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Secondary Standard/ MCLG</u>	<u>Tallahah Falls Results</u>	<u>Range of detections</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>
Sodium (ppm)	NA	NA	26	26-26	08-2021	No	Naturally Occurring
Iron (ppm)	NA	.3	0.5	0.5-0.75	08-2021	No	Naturally Occurring
Manganese (ppm)	NA	0.05	0.026	.026-.042	08-2021	No	Naturally occurring

**Public Participation Opportunities:**

For further information, please visit our website at [www.americanwtr.com](http://www.americanwtr.com). Any other questions, concerns, or comments about our water systems can be sent to our e-mail at [watertreatment@americanwtr.com](mailto:watertreatment@americanwtr.com) or by calling our office at (706)-348-6215. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your inquiries.