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Soque Wilderness Subdivision

Water Quality Report – 2016

GA Water System ID# 1370070

We are proud to inform you that the **Soque Wilderness Subdivision** did not have violations of water quality parameters during 2016. 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 Lauren Freeman at 706-348-6215.

Your water comes from 1 well drilled deep into rock aquifers. The water from this well is treated with a small amount of chlorine for disinfection.

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 Source Water Assessment Plan on the water system in the Soque Wilderness Subdivision. 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, domestic sewer systems lie within the management area and should be maintained to the standards set by the Habersham County Health Department. Storm water runoff from access and secondary roads pose the risk of contaminants such as petroleum products, fertilizers, and pesticides. Any domestic wells should also be protected from contamination by grouting around the wells and plugging abandoned wells according to the specification provided by the Water Resources Branch Publications Office at (404) 657-6127.

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. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in our water rate structure. 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 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 these tables are from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2016. 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>.

Detected Inorganic Contaminants Table							
<u>Parameter /units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Soque Wilderness Results</u>	<u>Range of detections</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>
Nitrate (ppm)	10.0	10.0	ND	NA	05-2016	No	Run off from fertilizer use
Fluoride (ppm)	2.0	2.0	.70	NA	11-2015	No	Naturally Occurring

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results							
<u>Parameter /units</u>	<u>Action Level</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Soque Wilderness 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>
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	0	3-2016	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0	3-2016	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Microbiological Monitoring Results							
<u>Parameter /units (present or absent of bacteria found in sample)</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Soque Wilderness Results</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation No/Yes</u>	<u>Typical Source of Contaminant</u>	
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	0	No Positives	2016 Monthly	No	Naturally present in the environment	

Disinfectants							
<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	0.41	0.22-0.66	2016 Weekly	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Other/Unregulated Containments							
<u>Parameter /units</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Secondary Standard</u>	<u>Soque Wilderness 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	16	NA	11-2015	No	Naturally occurring/Water Treatment

Public Participation Opportunities:

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