CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

FOR

BENT TREE COMMUNITY, INC.
PWS
2270003
JASPER, GEORGIA

REPORT DATA: JAN - DEC, 2022

WATER QUALITY REPORT

BENT TREE COMMUNITY, INC.

JASPER, GEORGIA 30143

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require that, beginning in October 1999, all community water systems provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. This report is presented by the Bent Tree Community, Inc. Water System to its customers. The report reflects the operation of the BTCI Water System from January 01, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

In order to do a better job for you, along with meeting new federal and state regulations, we are providing all of our customers with information regarding the water system at Bent Tree.

REGULATORY AGENCY - There are two (2) regulatory agencies administering to the quality of the BTCI Water Program. Both are governmental agencies. EPA, The Federal - Environmental Protection Agency and EPD, The State of Georgia - Environmental Protection Division. Both of these agencies pass down non-funded mandates to BTCI for compliance that must be met.

ENGINEERING - The BTCI Water Program is an engineered structure. Engineers were employed in 1988 to help plan the BTCIWP. This plan is in effect today. The plan is based on growth, which then specifies a time table for improvements in water treatment, water distribution and water storage.

INFORMATION ON THE WATER SYSTEM:

Bent Tree provides water to 1149 service connections. The water source is Lake Tamarack and the Chestnut Cove creek reservoirs. A 500,000 gallon per day surface water treatment plant provides the treatment of water under state and federal guidelines. Storage capacity is 878,000 gallons and water distributed through water lines from 2 inch to 10 inch in diameter. Currently 250,000 gallons per day is being produced. All customers are metered and pay on the usage or pay a minimum bill.

DETAIL OPERATIONAL PLANS - The BTCIWP meets the governmental requirements of its permit each day. The improvements made over the years, and those planned for in the future, will continue to see that quality is met. There are four (4) areas of the BTCIWP:

1). Supply
2). Treatment
3). Storage
4). Distribution

A failure of anyone of these four (4) areas will create a failure for service to our customers.

SUPPLY - Lake Tamarack, along with the Chestnut Cove reservoirs, make up the supply of water for the BTCIWP. BTCI has a permit today for withdrawal of 500,000 gallons in a 24 hour period.

TREATMENT - The Trident Surface Water Treatment Plant, constructed in 1994, has a current capacity of 500,000 gallons or 347 gallons per minute treatment capacity. The existing building was constructed to house an additional 500,000 gallons in increments of 250,000 when needed. In 2018, a third Trident unit was installed. We are required to treat with chlorine, and fluoride.

STORAGE - One of the key elements in the process is storage. Because the water demand peaks at several key times in a 24 hour period, the system must be able to deliver during that peak. To do this, there must be ample storage. Also, during periods when power may be off, and pumps not able to pump, and treatment not taking place, water still must be delivered to the service area. Storage allows for the withdrawal of water into the service area. At the present time, there are ten (10) tanks which provide 878,000 gallons of storage for the six (6) water districts inside BTCI. This storage would give BTCI customers two to three days of water if interruption from some source occurred.

DISTRIBUTION - The BTCIWP consists of 60 miles of water lines. Most of the original installation was light weight PVC pipe 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Over the years, three studies have determined that there is a water loss which has developed in joints of pipe and not in any one area. Where we have water line breaks, the water comes to the surface and can be immediately repaired, but where 20 foot joints are leaking small amounts, the total line must be replaced. In conjunction with the Engineering Study of 1988, BTCIWP is replacing approximately 6,000 feet of pipe with 6 inch C900 PVC Pipe per year. This is the best PVC pipe available and is also providing our community with fire protection.

STAFF - The BTCIWP Staff is made up of 9 employees who monitor the plant operation, water distribution system, meter readings, and overall supply, treatment, storage and distribution. The employees work together to ensure a successful implementation of all aspects of Bent Tree's Water Program.

BILLING - Our water employee in the Administration Office signs a new applicant up for water service, bills a quarterly bill and handles billing problems. BTCIWP bills each month, but customers only receive a bill quarterly. We read one of four sections (1/4) each month. Because of the growth in the program, staff is not able to read 1,000 plus meters each month, therefore (1/4) are read and bills are sent out. Minimum bills are very important to the program. Because many of our homes are part time, we have many people only paying the minimum. The minimum charge must be set at a fair rate for the customer, and also for BTCI to be able to pay for the production of the water.

We hope that some of this information is helpful to you. We strive each day to improve on our performance in providing you quality service. Mountain systems are extremely difficult to operate. Water must be taken from the low point to the high point, brought back down to

the low point and at all times be within a pressure range that provides adequate service. Staff is committed to giving you quality service and we believe that this is done on a daily basis.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION -Reporting date covers 01/01/22 - 12/31/22

Bent Tree Community, Inc.

Service Area is Bent Tree Community, Inc. customers of the

BTCIWP - 3500 acres – 1,118 homes

The purpose of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is to provide the BTCIWP customer with knowledge of the program and also knowledge of the water that they drink.

STATEMENT - ***THE BENT TREE WATER DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE FROM THE BTCI WATER SOURCE, WATER TREATMENT, WATER STORAGE AND WATER DISTRIBUTION IS SAFE TO DRINK AND MEETS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS AS PERMITTED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA***.

SOURCE - You can reach BTCI regarding your water bill Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm by dialing 770-893-2629 ext. 100. If you have an outage or wish to report a water leak, you may call 770-893-2628, 24 hours per day.

If you have any questions concerning the drinking water quality or wish to see the latest sample report sent to the State of Georgia, you may call 770-893-2629.

DEFINITIONS

TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

Bent Tree has contracted with the State of Georgia Laboratory to test drinking water samples each month. The reports come back to BTCI and then a second report is forwarded to the State. This report contains the number of hours the plant has run on a daily basis, the number of gallons treated and the level of chlorine used at the plant on a daily basis.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) - "The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology." This is the only level that is regulated through testing.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) - "The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety."

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT) - " A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water."

ACTION LEVEL (AL) - " The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeding, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow."

VARIANCES AND EXEMPTIONS - "State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions."

RL – Reporting Limit

* MINIMUM DETECTION LEVEL (MDL) - Not Regulated

* < LESS THAN

* SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (SMCL) - Not Regulated

BENT TREE COMMUNITY, INC. WATER PROGRAM
COMPLIANCE WITH ADDITIONAL DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

* RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS -
  All Requirements Met.

* SPECIAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS -
  No "Special" Monitoring Required -
  All "Routine" Monitoring Performed Appropriately.

* MONITORING AND REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA -
  Performed Appropriately.

* VIOLATION OF TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH VARIANCE, EXEMPTION, ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OR JUDICIAL ORDER -
  No terms violated

* VIOLATION OF TREATMENT TECHNIQUES -
  Treatment Techniques Include:
  1. Filtration And Disinfection
  2. Lead And Copper Corrosion Control
  3. Acrylamide And Epichlorohydrin
  No Violations.

REQUIRED EDUCATION AND HEALTH INFORMATION

- CONTAMINANTS AND HEALTH RISKS -

1) "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)."

2) "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 advise about drinking water from their health care providers. "EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Crystosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."

Basic Watershed Principle - The following will inform the customers of BTCI Water System of basic quality principles.

The source of BTCI's drinking water includes Lake Tamarack and its tributaries. As the water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals, such as BTCI's natural wildlife habitat or from human activity, such as construction or from natural erosion.
Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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."

SPECIAL REPORTING AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NITRATE, ARSENIC, LEAD, AND TRIHALOMETHANES

EPA is granted the authority to require additional health information under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Administrator has utilized this authority by including the following information regarding Nitrate, Lead, Arsenic, and Trihalomethanes. Note that certain portions of the following language must be included in your CCR based on finding these contaminants at specific levels. The required levels and the specific language for inclusion into your CCR (if appropriate) is as follows:
If the analysis of your finished tap water indicates any of the following, you must include required verbatim statements. Results are as follows:

1. Nitrate/Nitrite - above 5mg/L (or ppm) (50% of the MCL) but below 10 mg/L (100% of the MCL)
   MCL 10 Result is not detected 07/18/2022
2. Arsenic - above 25 ug/L (or ppb) (50% of the MCL), but below 50 ug/L (100% of the MCL)
   MCL 10 Result is not detected 03/08/2022

3. Lead - above 15 ug/L (or ppb) (the action level) in more than 5% but fewer than 10% of the sites sampled. EPD Policy states that if a water program passes the Lead/Copper testing for 3 consecutive years, the next time tested will be during 1 out of the following 3 years. BTCIWP passed 2000; therefore, the next time tested will be 1 time out of 2001 - 2003. Testing was done in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011,2014,2017 and 2020 at 10 sites. All sites passed. Copper action level was 1300 ug/l.

4. Trihalomethanes - have a running annual average of 3.4 ug/L(ppb) but below the current MCL of 80 ug/L (ppb). No Violation.

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. (Water System) 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.

2022 Results

Substances	Units	MCL	MCLG	Highest Amount	Range	Violation	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Disinfectant							
Chlorine	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDL = 4	2.0	2.0 – 2.0	No	Disinfection of Drinking Water
Inorganic							
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.7	0.66 – 0.66	No	Naturally present in the environment, Water Additive
Disinfection By-Products							
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	ppb	60	n/a	20	8.8-31	No	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs	ppb	80	n/a	14	5.6-28.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Copper and Lead Sampled at Customer Taps in 2020							
Copper	ppb	AL = 1.3	1.3	90^{th} % = 0.32		No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead	ppb	AL = 15	0	90^{th} % = 1.2		No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Samples of Cryptosporidium and Giardia were also collected in 2019 with a result of no detection.