

# 2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT

## BRYAN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM – OAK LEVEL WELL

### *Important Information about the Safety of Your Drinking Water*

*(A message from Bryan County Water & Sewer Utility)*

The Bryan County Water and Sewer Utility is pleased to report to you that the drinking water supplied by the Bryan County Water System is safe. Our water department staff prides themselves in their ability to provide you, our customer, with clean safe water. All sources of drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wells, are fed by water that passes over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water:

- Biological – may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources
- Inorganic – can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides – may come from agriculture, storm runoff or residential use.
- Organic chemicals – may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off or septic systems
- Radioactive materials – can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

As new standards are established for drinking water, Bryan County will add new technology in order to be able to meet the new requirements. Please adhere to the state mandated water conservation restrictions as our water is a precious resource.

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#### **Source of Water**

The Bryan County Water System gets its water from the Floridan aquifer. This pristine source provides a safe and dependable supply of water. Bryan County continues to be pro-active in protecting the Floridan aquifer in accordance with EPD regulations and a Wellhead Protection Plan has been developed and approved by EPD. There are 2 wells located at the Henderson Facility only one of which is currently needed to supply the required daily use demands of the system. The system pumped on average approximately 0.008 million gallons per day (MGD) during 2016.

#### **Treatment Process**

The water pumped from the Floridan aquifer is very pure. The only treatment needed is chlorination. Chlorine is added to the water for disinfection purposes prior to entering the distribution system.

Additional Information: WEB sites with information about water quality  
<http://www.epa.gov/ow> <http://www.dnr.state.ga.us> <http://www.awwa.org>

#### **About Bryan County and the Water Supply and Treatment System**

Bryan County's government works under the direction of an Administrator/Commission form of government. The County Commissioners meet the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at alternating locations between the Bryan County Courthouse in the City of Pembroke and the County Administration Building located off of SR 144. These meetings are open to the public.

Bryan County Water and Sewer Utility business hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The main office is located at 66 Captain Matthew Freeman Drive, Suite 201, Richmond Hill, GA 31324. The customer service number is 912-756-3177 and the 24 hour a day emergency telephone number is 912-312-0771.

***For additional information about the quality of your drinking water call – Bryan County Water and Sewer Utility Department at (912) 756-3177.***

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/Center for Disease Control 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).

Bryan County has a laboratory contract with the Georgia EPD for the testing of all water during the course of the year. The number and type of tests are in accordance with EPD requirements and procedures. The County has met all sampling and reporting requirements. The following table lists all detected substances that require monitoring.

### Regulated Substances

Detected Parameters							
Substance Tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Avg. Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Is It Safe? (Does It Meet Standards?)	Probable Source
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.20	0.5-1.90	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes

**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. Bryan County 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) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.**

Symbol, Acronym, or Note	Definition
AL	<i>Action Level:</i> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level:</i> 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.
MCLG	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</i> 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.
>	Greater than
ppm	<i>Parts Per Million:</i> 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligrams per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10 thousand.
ppb	<i>Parts Per Billion:</i> 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as micrograms per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or 1 penny in \$10 million.
90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Level used to determine compliance

### Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.