ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023

Presented By

Water Works District No. 3 of Rapides Parish

PWS ID#: LA1079017

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Source Water Assessment

We now have a Source Water Protection Plan available at our office that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination to the water supply. This assessment includes a delineated area around our wells or intakes through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within these delineated areas and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. The overall susceptibility rating for our water source is medium. A medium susceptibility rating does not imply poor water quality; rather, it signifies the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. If you would like to review the SWAP report, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours at (318)-640-1379.

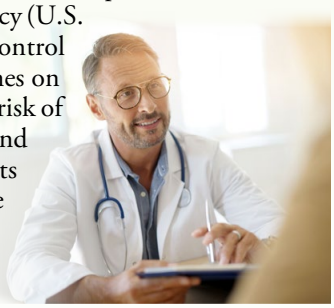
Our Report Card

The Louisiana Department of Health issues letter grades reflective of community water system quality and performance. The grades are based on seven standards evaluating the infrastructure, accountability, and overall health risk of drinking water to consumers. More information on these grades can be found at ldh.la.gov/watergrade.

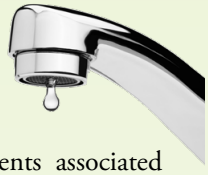
Our grade is 94/100 = A.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



Lead in Home Plumbing



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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, or doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute-accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Jimmy R. French, General Manager, at (318) 640-1379. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our primary water sources consist of four groundwater wells and a surface water purification plant that is fed by Big Creek, near Pollock.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Water Works office, 1306 Third Street, Pineville. Call (318) 640-1379 for additional information.

Please visit our website, wwd3.com. You can view or pay your bill, set up a new service, sign up for updates by email, or just keep up with ongoing projects. You can still pay by phone with a credit card or mail your payment to P.O. Box 580, Tioga, LA 71477.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jimmy R. French, General Manager, at (318) 640-1379.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

Potent Germicide: Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.

Taste and Odor: Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.

Biological Growth: Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.

Chemical: Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

To the Last Drop

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines drought as a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and people. Drought strikes in virtually all climate zones, from very wet to very dry.

There are primarily three types of drought: Meteorological Drought refers to the lack of precipitation, or the degree of dryness and the duration of the dry period; Agricultural Drought refers to the agricultural impact of drought, focusing on precipitation shortages, soil water deficits, and reduced groundwater or reservoir levels needed for irrigation; and Hydrological Drought pertains to drought that usually occurs following periods of extended precipitation shortfalls that can impact water supply (e.g., stream flow, reservoir and lake levels, groundwater).

Drought is a temporary aberration from normal climatic conditions; it can vary significantly from one region to another. Although normally occurring, human factors such as water demand can exacerbate the duration and impact that drought has on a region. By following simple water conservation measures, you can help significantly reduce the lasting effects of extended drought.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloramines (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	2.4	0.26–6.22	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2023	5	0	0.423	ND–0.423	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	1.1	ND–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	2023	1	0	0.016	ND–0.016	No	Discharge from wood-preserving factories
Turbidity[1] (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.22	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	ND	0/30	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

OTHER REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2023	50[2]	0	0.607	ND–0.607	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
HAA5 [Donahue Ferry at Whittington] (ppb)	2023	60	0	22[3]	1.7–60.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [point of entry] (ppb)	2023	60	0	32[3]	15.8–40.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Rifle Range Rd.] (ppb)	2023	60	0	13[3]	1.6–43.5	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Tioga Rd. at Adams Dr.] (ppb)	2023	60	0	33[3]	17.5–55.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.2	ND–0.2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Donahue Ferry at Whittington] (ppb)	2023	80	0	18[3]	0.63–59	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [point of entry] (ppb)	2023	80	0	17[3]	5–38	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Rifle Range Rd.] (ppb)	2023	80	0	15[3]	1.5–51.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Tioga Rd. at Adams Dr.] (ppb)	2023	80	0	19[3]	5.3–39.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2023	200	NA	30	10–30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2023	250	NA	16	ND–16	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	NA	1.1	ND–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Iron (ppb)	2023	300	NA	30	ND–30	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NA	20	ND–20	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2023	6.5-8.5	NA	7.51	6.09–7.51	No	Naturally occurring
Silver (ppb)	2023	100	NA	10	ND–10	No	Industrial discharges
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	250	NA	8	5–8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes

[1] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

[2] The gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirems per year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ; 50 pCi/L is used as a screening level.

[3] Highest locational running annual average.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

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

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

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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 detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (µg/L) (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (mg/L) (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit bit.ly/3Z5AMm8.

Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

Tip Top Tap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen Sink and Drain

Handwashing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed-up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink or black slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly and flush with hot water.

Faucets, Screens, and Aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals, resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet screen, as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and showerheads may be caused by water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water Filtration/Treatment Devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time, so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filter!)

What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or bisphenol A- (BPA) free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.