

The United States enjoys one of the best supplies of drinking water in the world. Nevertheless, many of us who once gave little or no thought to the water that comes from our taps are now asking questions: How safe is my drinking water? Where does my drinking water come from, and how is it treated? What can I do to help protect my drinking water?

In 1974 Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply and protecting sources of drinking water. SDWA is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its state partners. Since 1999, water suppliers have been required to provide annual Consumer Confidence Reports to their customers. This report provides the answers to these and other frequently asked questions.

Arab Water Works has been providing clean water to the community since 1934, helping to keep you and your family healthy. We take this mission very seriously. As shown in this annual report covering the year 2003, the water we delivered surpassed the strict regulations of the State of Alabama and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2003 our water department distributed 1,398,347,000 gallons of water to our customers. Our water sources are both surface and ground water. The source of surface water is from Browns' Creek Embayment, which is located west of Guntersville on Highway 69. The Plant's groundwater source is a well.

Your water is treated by using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water

ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) has required that all water systems complete a SWAP (source water assessment plan). The SWAP is composed of four distinct activities: delineation of the source water assessment area, contaminant inventory, susceptibility analysis and public awareness. Arab Water Works has completed each required component of the SWAP and ADEM has approved our SWAP. It has provided ways to deal with emergencies that may arise as well as ways to protect our water source NOW and for the FUTURE. You may view the SWAP at Arab Water Works.

The cost of drinking water is rising as we meet the needs of aging infrastructure, comply with public health standards, and expand service areas. These increasing costs may cause us to raise your rates. However, despite rate increases, water is still a bargain.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact David Campbell by calling 256-586-3159 or by writing to this address: 526 Cullman Road, Arab AL 35016. Also, our e-mail address is arabwatr@otelco.net. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend monthly Arab Water Works board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 526 Cullman Road at 6:00 p.m.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

AWW

Arab Water Works

Board of Directors:

Rodney Hyatt	Chairman
Ben Hornsby	Trustee
Wayne Washam	Trustee

Arab Water Works is a member of:

Alabama Rural Water Association

American Water Works Association

Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association

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).

Table of Detected Contaminants						
Of the many contaminants tested, only these few were at levels of detection. All test results are from the 2003 monitoring year unless otherwise						
CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Unit	Highest Amount Detected	Range Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
Bacteriological						
Turbidity ²	0	TT	NTU	0.13	ND - 0.13	Soil runoff.
Radiological						
Alpha Emitters	0	15	pCi/L	0.4 +/- 0.4	NA	Naturally present in the environment.
Radium 228	0	5	pCi/L	0.3 +/- 1.0	NA	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Organic Carbon	0	TT	ppm	2.8	2.1 - 2.8	Naturally present in the environment.
Inorganic Chemicals						
Barium	2	2	ppm	0.022	single sample	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metals refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	ppm	0.003 90th percentile (2001) ¹	ND - 0.023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Nitrate	10	10	ppm	0.24	single sample	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	0	AL=15	ppb	ND 90th percentile (2001) ¹	ND - 4.39	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	4	4	ppm	1.2	0.1 - 1.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Organic Chemicals						
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0	60	ppb	23.8 annual average	11.5 - 41.3	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TTHM ³	0	80	ppb	42.5 annual average	21.8 - 64.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	3.9	1.6 - 3.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT TABLE

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate these contaminants.

Of the many contaminants tested for, only these were detected.

CONTAMINANT	Average Detected	CONTAMINANT	Average Detected
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	7.85	Dichloroacetic acid (ppb)	10.6
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	1.64	Monochloroacetic acid (ppb)	0.64
Chloroform (ppb)	32.99	Trichloroacetic acid (ppb)	12.5
Monobromoacetic acid (ppb)	0.031		

Secondary & Physical Contaminants Table

CONTAMINANT	Average Detected	CONTAMINANT	Average Detected
Aluminum (ppm)	0.375	Fluoride (ppm)	0.88
Calcium (ppm)	27	Sodium (ppm)	6.83
Chloride (ppm)	10	Sulfate (ppm)	43.2
Hardness (ppm)	84.7	Total Alkalinity (ppm)	62.3
Magnesium (ppm)	4.18	Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	129
pH (su)	7.81	Zinc (ppm)	0.034
Manganese (ppm)	0.004	Iron (ppm)	0.016

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:

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 metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

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/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).

Notes:

¹Testing Frequency: The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

²Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

*In addition to the more than 7,000 regular tests and testing performed by Arab Water Works operators and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Arab Water Works has contracted an independent lab to test lake water for herbicides that TVA is currently using to control aquatic weeds. These tests will run concurrently with TVA's weed spraying programs, as well as quarterly through the years to insure that Arab Water Works is safe and herbicide free.

*Based on a study conducted by the ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

Definitions

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 microbial contaminants.

Action Level (or AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow. **Treatment Technique (or TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).

PPM (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l).

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

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

ADEM: Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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