

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2017



*Presented By*  
**Water Works District No. 3  
of Rapides Parish**

## Quality First

Once again we are pleased to present our annual water quality report. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

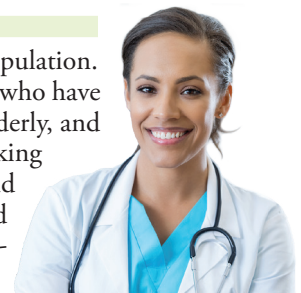
So, as our progress has continued in the last year, the board of commissioners have approved over \$9 million of improvements to the water system; progress on these improvements are as follows: The color removal treatment project for our two wells at Camp Beauregard is currently under construction, with a completion date of August 2018.

The Water District is also refurbishing a half-million-gallon storage tank on Pardue Road. This project is set to begin work in the fall. These projects will ensure our customers with the safest and cleanest drinking water, as well as the storage capacity for years to come.

In our efforts to continually improve our water distribution system, the Water District is currently planning and contracting a water main replacement for Tioga High Road. This will ensure that our schools in that area will have the most reliable service we can provide. Also in this effort, our Distribution crews have completed a water main upgrade on Cooley Drive, a water main relocation for the new bridge on Paradise Road, and a water main relocation and extension on Laura Avenue for the car rider project at Paradise Elementary. We also have plans to upgrade various other roads throughout the coming year.

## 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. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## 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 Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Water Works Office, 1306 Third Street, Pineville, Louisiana. Call (318) 640-1379 for additional information.



## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are 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 [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).



## 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 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Please visit our new and improved website at [www.wwd3.com](http://www.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 PO Box 580, Tioga, LA 71477.

## Source Water Assessment

We now have a Source Water Protection Plan available from 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 susceptibility rating of Medium does not imply poor water quality; rather, it signifies the systems potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. Source water assessment is available at our office during regular business hours.



Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Our primary water source consists of four ground-water wells and a surface water purification plant that is fed by Big Creek, near Pollock, Louisiana.

## 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.



## What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and house cleaning products. From 2006 to 2010, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.



The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go on the Web (<https://goo.gl/aZPgeB>) to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

### BY THE NUMBERS



The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

**34**  
BILLION

**1**  
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

**135**  
BILLION

**300**  
MILLION

The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

The age in years of the world's oldest water found in a mine at a depth of nearly two miles.

**2**  
BILLION

**151**  
THOUSAND

The number of active public water systems in the U.S.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the data tables shows only those substances that were detected between January 1 and December 31, 2017. Remember that detecting a substance does not necessarily 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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2017	15	0	3.53	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2017	[4]	[4]	1.86	1.00–2.7	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2017	[800]	[800]	240	0–240	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2017	1	0.8	0.495	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2017	5	0	1.35	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2017	4	4	0.065	0.065–1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2017	60	NA	27.75	12.65–58.37	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2017	80	NA	21.5	5.25–37.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2017	TT	NA	0.06	0.02–0.06	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2017	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppb)	2017	30	0	0.66	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.3	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2017	15	0	5	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2016	250	NA	5.5	5.5–50.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2017	300	NA	0.072	0.072–1.3	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
pH (Units)	2016	6.5–8.5	NA	8.2	7.4–8.2	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2016	250	NA	7.1	5.3–7.1	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

<sup>1</sup>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.

## Definitions

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

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

**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.

**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 (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** SMCLs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like appearance, taste and odor.

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