

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2016



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

We've Come a Long Way

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2016. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at any hour—to deliver the highest quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to 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 projects are as follows: Two steel ground storage tanks at our water purification plant have now been replaced with two, new 750,000-gallon concrete ground storage tanks. These concrete tanks require less maintenance than the conventional steel tanks, which will prove to be a cost saving improvement to the Water District in years to come. In addition, we are installing new color-removal treatment vessels at two of our wells at Camp Beauregard. This project will be completed by September 2017 and will ensure the safest and cleanest drinking water for years to come.

The Water District is also nearing completion of a new 8-inch water main along Robertson and Springhill Road. This will provide all the customers in that area with more than sufficient water and fire protection.

In our efforts to continually improve our water distribution system, the Water District has contracted out the installation of new water mains on Adams Drive, Connie Drive, Moser Drive, Clifton Drive, Davis Drive, Arlene, and Kenny. These new water mains replaced old, substandard mains and gives fire protection to areas that previously didn't have any.

Our own crews are also in the process of replacing and upgrading water mains on Cooley Drive. This project will be completed this year and will provide fire protection to the customers in that area.

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.

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 at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



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.

Board of Commissioners

Clyde Moore, *President*
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Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

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.



Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Louisiana Center for Environmental Health has a Web site (<https://goo.gl/c8WW2h>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Louisiana, including valuable information about our watershed.

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.

Please visit our new and improved website at 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.

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.



What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or 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 "7 PC" (code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can survive only 1 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 before it was filled with tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could 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 drinking water?

It could 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% 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.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of contaminants on a very strict sampling schedule. The information below represents only those substances that were detected; 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)	2016	15	0	2.85	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2016	[4]	[4]	1.72	1.01–2.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2016	[800]	[800]	210	0–210	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2016	1	0.8	0.507	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2016	5	0	0.744	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2016	4	4	NA	0.4–1.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2016	60	NA	33	22.9–48.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2016	80	NA	35	18.8–35.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2016	TT	NA	0.06	0.02–0.06	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2016	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppb)	2016	30	0	0.71	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Tap Water Samples Collected for Lead and Copper 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)	2014	1.3	1.3	0.3	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2014	15	0	4	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
Aluminum (ppb)	2014	200	NA	160	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2016	250	NA	50.8	5.5–50.8	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2016	300	NA	0.12	0.013–0.12	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

¹Turbidity 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 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.