

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



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, 2021. 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 all hours—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.

Over the past year, the district completed a test well next to our main office in Tioga. The results were promising, and the project is moving into the design phase. In the future, this site will provide additional water and storage for our residential and industrial customers, as well as several fire departments.

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.

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 water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

Where Does My Water Come From?

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

Board of Commissioners

Clyde Moore - President
Elizabeth Lindsay - Vice President
D. W. "Dub" Williams - Secretary
Oscar Coody
Marion Simpson
Don O'Neal
Russell Flowers
Billy McKay
Lane Lavespere



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 website at wwd3.com! You can view or pay your bill, set up 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.

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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, and toothbrush holders and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including humans). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

“
When the well is dry, we
know the worth of water.

– Benjamin Franklin

”

The best solution to this problem is to clean and dry these surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence. *Serratia* will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Federal Ground Water Rule

We were informed by Louisiana Department of Health, Region 6, of a significant deficiency on our sanitary survey.

Observation and Corrective Action

At the time of the survey, the system did not have an up-to-date list of customers required to have backflow preventers or recent test records of installed devices. The water system was not maintaining annual testing records for customers required to install backflow prevention devices. The water system must maintain a list of customers required to install backflow prevention devices and a record of annual testing for each device. We received this notice on December 30, 2021. We were directed to correct the deficiency by March 3, 2022, but were unable to do so in that short a time span, so we were given an extension by DHH to complete it by August 1, 2022. We have started implementing the corrective action by retaining a company to perform a survey of all backflow preventers in the system. Letters will be sent to those customers following the survey.

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 system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area.





BY THE NUMBERS

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

300
MILLION

1
MILLION

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

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

34
BILLION

135
BILLION

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

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

151
THOUSAND

199
THOUSAND

The number of highly trained and licensed water professionals serving in the U.S.

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

2
BILLION

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 we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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/3leRyXy.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out its website at goo.gl/Jxb6xG.



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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2021	3	3	ND	ND-0.048	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Chloramines (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	2.6	0.1-4.70	No	Water additive used to control microbes	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Dichloromethane (ppb)	2021	5	0	ND	ND-0.85	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	4	4	ND	ND-1.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2021	10	10	0.3	ND-0.3	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity' (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	0.23	0.03-0.23	No	Soil runoff	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity' (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2021	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff	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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2020	1.3	1.3	0.2	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2020	15	0	0.005	0/30	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits	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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2021	NA	NA	50'	ND	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
HAA5 [Donahue Ferry @ Whittington] (ppb)	2021	60	60	0	0.96-25.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [point of entry] (ppb)	2021	60	60	0	11.7-19.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Rifle Range Rd.] (ppb)	2021	60	60	0	15-24.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 [Tioga Rd. @ Adams Dr.] (ppb)	2021	60	60	0	13.5-22.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Donahue Ferry @ Whittington] (ppb)	2021	80	80	0	0.53-10.9	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [point of entry] (ppb)	2021	80	80	0	3.5-9.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Rifle Range Rd.] (ppb)	2021	80	80	0	4.9-11	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Tioga Rd. @ Adams Dr.] (ppb)	2021	80	80	0	4.1-10.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	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	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2021	200	NA	0.52	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Manganese (ppb)	2021	50	NA	0.01	-0.01	No	Leaching from natural deposits	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	2021	6.5-8.5	NA	6.63	NA	No	Naturally occurring	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	250	NA	29	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes	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 or annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. 50 pCi/L is used as a screening level.

About Our Violation

COMPLIANCE PERIOD	ANALYTE TYPE
February 5 to March 30, 2021	Lead and Copper

Participating customers were not mailed the Lead and Copper Rule notice in a timely manner. This was a notice to the participating customers of the results of the samples that were pulled from their residence. No samples taken were out of compliance. All notices were mailed out immediately after notification by the Louisiana Department of Health.



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.

HAA5: A group of five haloacetic acids, including dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, and trichloroacetic acid.

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 (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): 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.

TTHMs: Total trihalomethanes.

