

Annual
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

Reporting Year 2012



Presented By _____
City of Pineville

PWS ID#: 1079016

There When You Need Us

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2012. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 910 Main Street, Pineville, La.

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>.

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.

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Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often 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
Arsenic (ppb)	2010	10	0	1	NA	No
Barium (ppm)	2010	2	0.0148	NA	NA	No
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2010	5	0	0.73	NA	No
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2010	6	0	0.69	NA	No
Fluoride (ppm)	2010	4	4	1.6	NA	No
Gross Alpha, excl. Radon & Uranium (pCi/L)	2010	15	0	0.31	NA	No
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2010	50 ¹	0	0.9	NA	No
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	2010	5	0	0.17	NA	No
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	2010	5	0	0.56	NA	No
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]– Stage 1 (ppb)	2012	80	0	16.54	11.3–19.82	No
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	VIOLATION
Copper (ppm)	2011	1.3	1.3	0.5	0	No
Lead (ppb)	2011	15	0	7	2	No

In the table below, we have shown the deficiencies that were identified during our latest survey done by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. These are deficiencies that we are currently working to resolve.

DATE IDENTIFIED	FACILITY	CATEGORY CODE	ACTIVITY NAME	DU DATE	COMMENTS
10/20/2010	Ground at Susk	ST16	GWR - Sent SV Reminder Letter	12/31/2011	TSS 7.0 - Material and Design

¹The gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirems/year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. 50 pCi/L is used as a screening level.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of "medium." If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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

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).

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Pineville Water Department customers are fortunate because they enjoy an abundant water supply from one source, the Carnahan Aquifer. The City has twelve wells that pull from this aquifer. As a final step, our water is chlorinated for disinfectant.

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 the 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.

Fact or Fiction



Water treatment began as a way to remove disease-causing agents. (*Fiction: It was only in the 1950s that scientists began to suspect that water might carry diseases. Although earlier treatment of water could make the water safer, it was mainly done merely to improve the taste, smell, or appearance of the water.*)

About half of the world's water supply is available for drinking. (*Fiction: If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.*)

Due to its unique nature, water boils at the same temperature anywhere on the planet. (*Fiction: At sea level, water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, but on top of Mt. Everest, water boils at 154 degrees.*)

Water regulates the temperature of the Earth. (*Fact: As in the human body, the water in our oceans, lakes, and streams plays a major role in regulating planetary temperatures.*)

The Mississippi River is longer than the Amazon River. (*Fiction: At 3,902 miles the Mississippi River is not as long as the Amazon River, which flows for 4,000 miles.*)

Forty trillion gallons of water a day are carried in the atmosphere across the United States. (*Fact: Forty percent of the atmosphere's moisture content falls as precipitation each day.*)

Regulating Arsenic

Arsenic contamination of drinking water sources may result from either natural or human activities. Volcanic activity, erosion of rocks and minerals, and forest fires are natural sources that can release arsenic into the environment. Although about 90 percent of the arsenic used by industry is for wood preservative purposes, it is also used in paints, drugs, dyes, soaps, metals, and semiconductors. Agricultural applications, mining, and smelting also contribute to arsenic releases. Arsenic is usually found in the environment combined with other elements such as oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur (inorganic arsenic); or combined with carbon and hydrogen (organic arsenic). Organic forms are usually less harmful than inorganic forms.

Low levels of arsenic are naturally present in water -- about 2 parts arsenic per billion parts of water (ppb). Thus, you normally take in small amounts of arsenic in the water you drink. Some areas of the country have unusually high natural levels of arsenic in rock, which can lead to unusually high levels of arsenic in water.

In January 2001, the U.S. EPA lowered the arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) from 50 to 10 ppb in response to new and compelling research linking high arsenic levels in drinking water with certain forms of cancer. All water utilities were required to implement this new MCL in January 2006.

Removing arsenic from drinking water is a costly procedure but well worth the expenditure considering the health benefits. For a more complete discussion, visit the U.S. EPA's arsenic Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/arsenic/index.cfm>.

- You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.
- Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

- NEVER:
 - Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
 - Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
 - Use the toilet as a waste basket.

- ALWAYS:
 - Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
 - Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
 - Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products including nonbiodegradable wipes.