PWW&SB

THE WATER WORKS AND SEWER BOARD
OF THE CITY OF PRICHARD

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020

PWS ID#: AL0001015

Quality First

Once again, we are pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. 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 our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The water supplied to the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard comes from the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) Converse Reservoir, also known as Big Creek Lake. The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard has five water storage tanks, which are cleaned and inspected annually. Over 2,000 fire hydrants are inspected, exercised, and repaired as needed annually. Line flushing to eliminate aged or discolored water is done throughout the system to improve water quality. System pressures are checked and maintained at a level that is satisfactory to customers.

> "We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water"

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

About Our Violation

MAWSS is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. During the January through March 2020 monitoring period, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) were not analyzed, and therefore, MAWSS cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at this time.

Samples were collected by MAWSS within the monitoring period on March 11, 2020, as required. The samples were delivered to a contracted third-party certified laboratory. The third-party laboratory failed to transport the samples within its network of laboratories. Consequently, the samples were not analyzed within the required holding time, and test results were not uploaded to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) database. MAWSS recognized that it had not received a report from the third-party laboratory by the end of the reporting period. Upon checking into the matter, the error was discovered.

On May 4, MAWSS collected samples again, and the VOC analysis was properly performed by a different third-party laboratory. The results indicated VOCs were well below the MCL and thus compliant with ADEM regulations.

Questions?

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard is committed to providing you with high-quality water. We also understand that occasional concerns may arise. At times the water may appear cloudy or rusty or have an unusual odor. This change in water quality could be caused by various reasons. Construction in the area, in-house water filtration, water system maintenance, recent plumbing work at your home or business, or the weather are just a few possibilities. Whatever the reason, we want to address those concerns, which may be conveyed by calling the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard's customer service department at (251) 457-3396.

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. All 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.

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 radioactive material, and it can pick up 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.

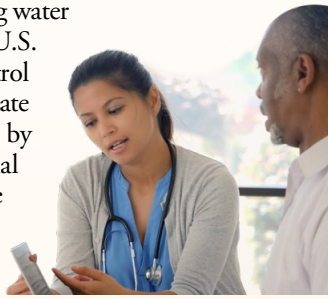
Public Meetings

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard has regularly scheduled board meetings on the second Monday of each month. We meet promptly at 4:30 p.m. inside our boardroom at 125 East Clark Avenue, Prichard.

The Board of Directors are:
Russell J. Heidelburg, Chairperson
Ronald K. Davis, Vice Chairperson
Beverly P. Bunch, Secretary/Treasurer
Cherry Doyle, Member
John H. Johnson Jr., Member

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.



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.

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

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.

We participated in the fourth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0	0.5	<0.37–0.51	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.03	0.02–0.03	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2020	[4]	[4]	1.84	0.63–1.84	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2020	[800]	[800]	90.0	ND–90.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2020	1	0.8	0.72	0.24–0.72	No	Disinfection by-product
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2020	5	0	0.39	ND–0.39	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.97	ND–0.97	No	Water additive promoting strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.17	0.09–0.17	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio)	2020	TT[1]	NA	0.79	0.79–1.64	No	Naturally present in the environment

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
Copper[2] (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.013	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservations
Lead[3] (ppb)	2019	15	0	<0.005	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)	2020	250	NA	7.70	7.30–7.70	No	Secondary contaminant
Corrosivity[4]	2020	Non-corrosive	NA	-2.00	-2.00–-1.87	No	NA
pH[4] (units)	2020	6.5–8.5	NA	8.30	7.10–8.30	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate[4] (ppm)	2020	250	NA	25.0	18.0–25.0	No	NA
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2020	500	NA	76.0	46.0–76.0	No	Secondary contaminant

OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity [as CaC03][4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	7.70	7.50–7.70	No	Naturally occurring
Aluminum (ppm)	2020	0.2	NA	0.28	0.08–0.28	No	Secondary contaminant
Calcium[4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	15.0	11.0–15.0	No	Naturally occurring
Carbon Dioxide[4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	2020	15	0	0.36	ND–0.36	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particles (pCi/L)	2020	50	0	1.29	ND–1.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 (ppb)	2020	60	NA	32.20	6.60–46.0	No	Disinfection by-product
Hardness [as CaC03][4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	42.7	7.90–42.7	No	Naturally occurring
Magnesium[4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	1.30	0.87–1.30	No	Naturally occurring
Orthophosphate [as P][4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	0.28	ND–0.28	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium[4] (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	3.80	3.30–3.80	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance[4] (µmho/cm)	2020	NA	NA	99.9	92.0–99.9	No	Naturally occurring
Temperature[4] (degrees C)	2020	NA	NA	34.0	14.0–34.0	No	NA
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHMs] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	43.63	8.20–55.5	No	Disinfection by-product
Turbidity (NTU)	2020	0.3	NA	0.18	0.01–0.18	No	Soil runoff

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.

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.

µmho/cm (micromhos per centimeter): A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

[1] The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than one indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

[2] The action level for copper is 1.3 ppm at the 90th percentile. Samples were taken at 30 locations throughout the Prichard water distribution system during the most recent sampling event in 2019, in accordance with applicable regulations. The concentration of copper at the 90th percentile was 0.013 ppm, which was under the action level.

[3] The action level for lead is 15 ppb at the 90th percentile. Samples were taken at 30 locations throughout the Prichard water distribution system during the most recent sampling event in 2019, in accordance with applicable regulations. The concentration of lead at the 90th percentile was below the detection limit of 0.005 ppb, which was under the action level.

[4] Tested in accordance with special corrosivity monitoring through a corrosion control program implemented by MAWSS.

Nondetected Contaminants

MAWSS tests all primary contaminants, which include microbiological contaminants, radionuclides, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals (synthetic and volatile), and disinfection by-products. It also tests for secondary contaminants, unregulated synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, and PCBs.

NONDETECTED CONTAMINANTS				
SUBSTANCES				
1,1-Dichloroethane	1,3,5-Trimethybenzene	Bromochloromethane	Dichlorodifluoromethane	N-butylbenzene
1,1-Dichloropropene	2-Chlorotoluene	Bromodichloromethane	Dieldren	N-propylbenzene
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	2,2-Dichloropropane	Bromoform	Fluorotrichloromethane	Naphthalene
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Bromomethane (methyl bromide)	Hexachlorobutadiene	Nickel
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	4-Chlorotoluene	Butachlor	Iron	P-isopropyltoluene
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Aldicarb	Carbaryl	Isopropylbenzene	Propachlor
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Aldicarb sulfone	Chloroethane	Methomyl	Sec-butylbenzene
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	Aldicarb sulfoxide	Chloromethane	Methyl-tert-butyl ether	Tert-butylbenzene
1,3-Dichloropropane	Aldrin	Dibromomethane	Metolachlor	Zinc
1,3-Dichloropropene	Bromobenzene	Dicamba	Metribuzin	

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard also tests for:

SUBSTANCES				
Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane	Cylindrospermopsin	Ethoprop	Oxyfluorfen	Tebuconazole
Anatoxin-a	Dibromoacetic acid	Monobromoacetic acid	Permethrins, Total	Tribufos
Butylated hydroxyl anisole	Dibromochloromethane	Microcystin, Total	Profenofos	
Chlorpyrifos	Dimethipin	O-Toluidine	Quinoline	

Monitoring Non-Compliance Notice

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards. For the first quarter disinfection by-products (DBP) monitoring period of January 1 through March 31, 2020, the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard's contract laboratory sampled the system on February 3, 2020. According to the approved Stage 2 DBP Monitoring Plan, first quarter DBP sampling is required to occur during the second week of February, which began seven days after the sampling occurred. Sampling results show that locational running annual average DBP levels were lower than the regulatory maximum contaminant level (MCL), but because the sample was collected outside of the approved sampling period, this represents a monitoring non-compliance violation.

Because DBPs from this quarter were used in determining compliance with DBP MCLs in the quarters of April through June, July through September, and October through December 2020, the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard will incur monitoring non-compliance violations for those quarters as well.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

The approved Stage 2 DBP Monitoring Plan has been shared with our contract laboratory so that future monitoring violations can be avoided.

Should you have any questions concerning this non-compliance notice or monitoring requirements in general, please contact our offices at Water Works at Sewer Board of the City of Prichard, 125 East Clark Avenue, Prichard, AL 36610 or (251) 457-3396.