

Water Quality Report 2008

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2008. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and the services we deliver to you every day. (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien).

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The City of Alexandria Water Department works around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

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 land or the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants 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, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants—such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or 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 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 can also come from gas station, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants—which can be naturally -occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available in our office. This plan is an assessment of a 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 susceptibility rating of 'MEDIU'. If you would like to review our Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at the number provided in the following paragraph.

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. City of Alexandria is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting 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 drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings, or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact Harlis Bass at 318-441-6216.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might be familiar with. To help you better to understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects(ND)-laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)-one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)-one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/L)-one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter(pCi/L)-picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems pr year (mrem/yr)-measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million fibers per liter (MFL)-million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than micrometers.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is 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.

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

Variances & Exemptions: State/EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of 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.

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.

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

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

During the period covered by this report we had below noted violations of drinking water regulations:

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
MCL (TCR), MONTHLY	Maximum Contaminant Level Violation	COLIFORM (TCR)	08/01/2008 - 08/31/2008

Our water system tested a minimum of 60 monthly samples in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, we had the following noted detection for microbiological contaminants:

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of August, 5.97% of samples returned as positive	MCL: Systems that Collect 40 or More Samples per Month - No more than 5% positive monthly samples;	0	Naturally present in the environment

In the tables on the next page, we have shown the regulated contaminants that have detectable levels. These samples, except Lead and Copper results and surface water systems, were collected at the raw water source and represent water before any treatment, blending, or distribution. As Such, the consumer tap levels could be less. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers to the latest year of chemical sampling.

Water Testing & Monitoring

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals— Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period January 1 - December 31, 2008. 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.

DBP Contaminant	Monitoring Period	RAA	Unit	Range		MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Stage 1 DBP Monitoring Rule & Stage 2								
Trihalomethanes, Total (TTHM)	2008	20	ppb	8	33	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids, Total (HAA5s)	2008	5	ppb	0	11	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminant	Meets Req	Unit	Result	EPA MCL		Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Likely Source	
Trihalomethanes Total (TTHMS)	Yes	ppb	24-75	Avg. of 80 ppb		n/a	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Haloacetic Acids Total (HAA5s)	Yes	ppb	30-60	Avg. of 60 ppb		n/a	By product of drinking water disinfection	
Regulated Contaminants	MCLG	MCL,	Your Water	Low	Hi	Collection Date	Typical Source	
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	3	2	3	3/8/2004	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	2.4	0.1	2.4	3/8/2004	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Turbidity		1	.8	.05	.8	1/26/2004	Soil runoff	

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MC LG	Typical Source
GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	12/12/2007	37	5- 37	pCi/l	15		Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. RADON & U	6/1/2004	8	8	pCi/l	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	12/12/2007	4	4	pCi/l	4	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90 TH Percentile	95 TH Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2005-2007	0.3	0.3		ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2005 - 2007	5	8		ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

~~~~~Environmental Protection Agency Required Health Effects Language~~~~~

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit forms of radiation known as photons and beta radiation. Some people who drink water containing beta particle and photon radioactivity in the excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.



Our water sources are listed below. Our water comes from ground water.

| Well Source | Well Source | Well Source | Well Source | Well Source | Well Source | Well Source | Well Source |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| R-425       | R-825       | R-905       | R-915       | R-924       | R-932       | R-1210      | R-1357      |
| R-426       | R-833       | R-906       | R-916       | R-927       | R-933       | R-1292      | R-1406      |
| R-464       | R-837       | R-907       | R-918       | R-927       | R-934       | R-1329      | R-1430      |
| R-610       | R-838       | R-909       | R-920       | R-928       | R-936       | R-1330      | R-1431      |
| R-612       | R-839       | R-910       | R-921       | R-929       | R-937       | R-1343      | R-1432      |
| R-748       | R-875       | R-912       | R-922       | R-930       | R-1202      | R-1356      | R-1475      |
| R-823       |             | R-914       |             |             |             |             |             |

**Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. Please call our office if you have questions.**

**We at the City of Alexandria work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.**

For questions about this report, contact Harlis Bass, Acting Water Superintendent at (318) 441-6216