

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Attalla Water Works Board

January-December 2025

### Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) drinking water health standards. Your Local Water officials vigilantly safeguard its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standards. We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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. Our water treatment facility and well field are located just outside the city limits on Highway 77 at the old "Lake RHEA" site. We have four deep wells; they can produce 1905 gallons per minute. The Attalla Water Works Board routinely completes a water storage facility inspection plan and utilizes a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan and has a Cross Connection Policy in place to ensure good safe drinking water for our customers. Chlorine is added to the water as disinfectant and the required residual is maintained to protect your drinking water from any possible outside contaminants. We have a Source Water Protection Plan available for review that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility, please call Brett Roberts at 256-538-2816. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at The Water Works Board Office, 509 Fourth Street NW, Attalla, Alabama, 35954 beginning at 4:00 PM.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

♦ Jeff Garrard – Chairman  
♦ Parker Ray Wain

♦ Betty Billingsley

♦ Jeff Bailey – Vice Chairman

♦ Bobby Bryant

Attalla Water Works Board routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

#### PLAIN LANGUAGE DEFINITION

- ♦ **Not Required (NR)** – Laboratory analysis not required due to waiver granted by the Environmental Protection Agency for the State of Alabama. *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* - 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 (nanograms/l)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in 10,000,000,000.
  - ♦ **Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)** - one part per quadrillion 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.
  - ♦ **Millicuries per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
  - ♦ **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
  - ♦ **Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
  - ♦ **Action Level – (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
  - ♦ **Treatment Technique (TT)** - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
  - ♦ **Maximum Contaminant Level** - (mandatory language) 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.
  - ♦ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.
  - ♦ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG** - *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.*
  - ♦ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL** - *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.*
- T.O.N – Threshold odor number*

**Health Reference Levels (HRL):** The CCL process derives HRLs for screening purposes using available data and can be used in the Regulatory Determination process as risk-derived concentrations against which to evaluate the occurrence data to determine if contaminants may occur at levels of public health concern. HRLs are not final determinations about the level of a contaminant in drinking water that is necessary to protect any particular population and, in some cases, are derived prior to development of a complete exposure assessment using the best available data. HRLs are not legally enforceable federal standards

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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 run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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 stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.
- ♦ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or ADEM requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

## Table of Primary Contaminants

At high levels some primary contaminants are known to pose a health risks to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
<b>Bacteriological</b>					
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	ND	Endothall(ppb)	100	ND
Turbidity	TT	ND	Endrin(ppb)	2	ND
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	0	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
<b>Radiological</b>					
Beta-photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Ethylene dichloride(ppt)	50	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	1.70	Glyphosate(ppb)	700	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	Halooacetic Acids(ppb)	60	23.53
Uranium(pci/l)	30	ND	Heptachlor(ppt)	400	ND
<b>Inorganic</b>					
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Heptachlor epoxide(ppt)	200	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND	Hexachlorobenzene(ppb)	1	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene(ppm)	50	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	0.072	Lindane(ppt)	200	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Methoxychlor(ppb)	40	ND
Bromate (ppb)	10	ND	Oxamyl (Vydate)(ppb)	200	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	Pentachlorophenol(ppb)	1	ND
Chloramines(ppm)	4	ND	Picloram(ppb)	500	ND
Chlorine(ppm)	4	2.02	PCBs(ppt)	500	ND
Chlorine dioxide(ppb)	800	ND	Simazine(ppb)	4	ND
Chlotite(ppm)	1	ND	Styrene(ppb)	100	ND
Chromium (ppb)	100	ND	Tetrachloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	0.5	Toluene(ppm)	1	ND
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND	TOC	TT	0.41
Fluoride (ppm)	4	ND	TTHM(ppb)	80	30.50
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	1.3	Toxaphene(ppb)	3	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)(ppb)	50	ND
Nickel (ppm)	0.1	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene(ppb)	70	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.80	1,1,1-Trichloroethane(ppb)	200	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	0.40	Trichloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Selenium(ppb)	50	ND	Vinyl Chloride(ppb)	2	ND
Thallium(ppb)	2	ND	Xylenes(ppm)	10	ND
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>					
Acrylamide	TT	ND			
Alachlor(ppb)	2	ND			
Atrazine(ppb)	3	ND			
Benzene(ppbv)	5	ND			
Benzo(a)pyrene(PHAs)(ppt)	200	ND			
Carbofuran(ppb)	40	ND			
Carbon Tetrachloride(ppb)	5	ND			
Chlordane(ppb)	2	ND			
Chlorobenzene(ppb)	100	ND			
2,4-D	70	ND			
Dalapon(ppb)	200	ND			
Dibromochloropropane(ppt)	200	ND			
o-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	600	ND			
p-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	75	ND			
1,2-Dichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND			
1,1-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	7	ND			
Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	70	ND			
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	100	ND			
Dichloromethane(ppb)	5	ND			
1,2-Dichloropropane(ppb)	5	ND			
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate(ppb)	400	ND			
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates(ppb)	6	ND			
Dinoseb(ppb)	7	ND			
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD](ppq)	30	ND			
Diquat(ppb)	20	ND			

**Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants**

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range		Amount Detected	Likely Source of Contamination		
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants January - December 2025</b>								
Turbidity	0	TT	ND		ND	NTU	Soil runoff	
Alpha emitters	0	15	0 - ND		1.70	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits	
Barium	2	2	0.072	-	0.072	0.072	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.98	-	2.06	2.02	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	No. of Sites above action level 0		0.50	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
Lead	0	AL=15	No. of Sites above action level 0		1.3	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrate (as N)	10	10	0.80	-	0.80	0.80	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	10	ND	-	0.80	0.40	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic Contaminants January - December 2025</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	N/A	60	7.10	-	40.00	23.55	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N/A	TT	ND	-	0.81	0.41	ppm	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0	80	9.80	-	51.00	30.40	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Secondary Contaminants January - December 2025</b>								
Chloride	N/A	250	8.00	-	8.00	8.00	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Color	N/A	15	0.10	-	0.53	0.32	PCU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Copper	N/A	1	0.0058	-	0.0058	0.0058	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from pipes
Iron	N/A	0.3	0.01	-	0.02	0.01	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	N/A	N/A	12.4	-	12.4	12.4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	N/A	250	9.10	-	9.10	9.10	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Dissolved Solids	N/A	500	183.00	-	183.00	183.0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Special Contaminants January - December 2025</b>								
Calcium	N/A	N/A	48.60	-	48.60	48.60	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	N/A	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.01	0.01	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	N/A	N/A	7.40	-	7.56	7.45	SU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	N/A	N/A	7.40	-	7.40	7.40	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Specific Conductance	N/A	<500	349.00	-	349.00	349.00	umhos	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Temperature	N/A	N/A	12.28	-	21.65	16.97	°C	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Alkalinity	N/A	N/A	156.40	-	165.61	161.01	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits

Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (2018)	N/A	N/A	173.0	-	173.0	173.0	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Unregulated Contaminants January - December 2025								
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	N/A	2.70	-	2.70	2.70	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Chloroform	N/A	N/A	4.70	-	4.70	4.70	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	2.90	1.42	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs)	N/A	N/A	ND	-	N/D	N/D	ppb	Stable manmade chemicals that allow them to repel both water and oil.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

As you can see by the tables, our system had no violations of allowable limits of contaminants in drinking water. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

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 activities.

**Total Coliform:** Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)/CDC (Center of Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. All Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Turbidity** has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immune-compromised individuals, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illnesses. We encourage immune-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water. We currently monitor Cryptosporidium and have had none detected.

**Cryptosporidium and Giardia** are microscopic organisms that can cause gastrointestinal illness. These organisms come from human and animal waste. Monitoring is required to determine treatment needs. **No violations occurred**, and our water continues to meet all regulatory requirements.

Contaminant	Sample Count	Highest Result	Average Result	Units	Likely Source
Cryptosporidium	24	3	0.125	cysts/10 L	Human and animal waste
Giardia	24	1	0.04	cysts/10 L	Human and animal waste

**Radon** is a naturally occurring gas present in some groundwater. Inhaled radon has been linked to lung cancer and may pose health risk when inhaled after the release from water into the air. This inhalation could occur during showering, bathing, washing dishes, or washing clothes. The radon gas release from drinking water is a relatively small part of the total radon found in air. One major source of Radon gas is from the soil, where the gas can seep through the foundations of homes. It is not clear whether ingested (i.e. taken through the mouth) radon contributes to cancer or other adverse health conditions. If you are concerned about radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level. For additional information on home testing contact (insert name of local health department). Note 300 Pci/l proposed MCL.

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. The Atlanta Water Works Board is 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

"Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

**Lead Service Line Inventory:** Our Lead Service Line Inventory was completed and submitted by the deadline of October 16, 2024, and a copy of it is in our office as required by EPA. If any would like to review it or have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Upon completing the lead service line inventory, here at Attalla Water Works we are pleased to report that we had 0-Lead Service Lines, 0-Galvanize Required Replacement Service Lines, 0-Unknown, and 2946 Non-Lead Service Lines.

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

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

**For more information contact:**

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256-305-5478