

This report was prepared by:
The Utilities Board of Rainbow City
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Rainbow City, AL 35906

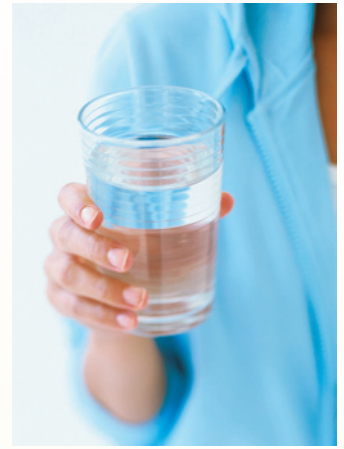
Quality First

We are pleased to bring you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

The Utilities Board of Rainbow City routinely completes a water storage facility inspection plan, and utilizes a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan and a Cross Connection Policy to ensure good, safe drinking water from any possible outside contaminants. The results in the tables are the maximum values detected from both The Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board and The Utilities Board of the City of Rainbow City tests.

Thank you for allowing us to provide your family with clean quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structures adjustments. Thank you for your understanding.

We at The Utilities Board of Rainbow City work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help to protect our water sources.



For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Terry Walker, Water/Sewer Superintendent, at (256) 442-2553.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 4 p.m. at The Utilities Board Business Office, 3700 Rainbow Dr., Rainbow City, AL.

Board of Directors

Jerry T. Tolbert, Chairman

Deborah L. Hiltz, Secretary/Treasurer

Andy C. Dennis, Member

H. Boyd Smart, Member

Donald A. Winningham, Member

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our water source comes from the basin called the Middle Coosa. This watershed contains 23 rivers and streams. There are 420 lakes in the watershed, for a total of 31,285.7 acres of surface area. There are approximately 3,359.6 total river miles in this basin. This basin is fed from the Upper Coosa Basin and multiple aquifers, including Pennsylvanian aquifers, and Valley and Ridge aquifers, and Valley and Ridge carbonate-rock aquifers. All of the sources provide approximately 5,300 cubic per second (cfs) average flow through our area. From this source our water is treated at the Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board water plant. This facility provides 15-20 million gallons of clean drinking water for the city of Gadsden and surrounding cities. The Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board is located at 515 Albert Rains Boulevard in Gadsden, Alabama. To learn more about our watershed on the internet, go to http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=03150106.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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.

Automatic Bank Draft is Available

The Utilities Board of Rainbow City is offering Automatic Bank Draft. This is a free service to our customers. Save time, money, gas or postage, let us do the work for you.

If you would like to sign up this free service, please stop by our business office and pick up a form or call and request one to be mailed to you. When you receive the form fill it out, attach a voided check and return to our business office.

Accounts are drafted the 15th of the month. If the 15th falls on a week-end or holiday, your account will be drafted the following business day.

If you have any questions regarding this service, please call our business office, 256-442-2553.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Beginning August, 2011, The Utilities Board of Rainbow City will no longer mail cut-off notices to our customers. Water service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount is not paid by the second Tuesday of the month. Any payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday will be assessed a \$25.00 non-payment fee. Cut-off will be the second Wednesday of each month. If your service is disconnected, an additional \$25.00 reconnection fee will be charged.

Non-detected Contaminants

Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrite, Selenium, Thallium, Foaming Agents (Surfactants), Silver, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,3-Dichloropropane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloropropane, 1,3-Dichloropropene, 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene, 2,3-Dichloropropane, Benzene, Bromobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Bromoform, Bromomethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, Chloroethane, Chloromethane, cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dibromomethane, Dichlorofluoromethane, Dibromoacetic Acid Ethylbenzene, Hexachlorobutadiene, Isopropylbenzene, M-Dichlorobenzene, Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane), Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), Monobromoacetic Acid Monochloroacetic Acid, Monochlorobenzene, N-Butylbenzene, Naphthalene, N-Propylbenzene, o-Chlorotoluene, o-Dichlorobenzene, p-Chlorotoluene, p-Dichlorobenzene, p-Isopropyltoluene, Sec-Butylbenzene, Styrene, TCE(Trichloroethylene), Tert-Butylbenzene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trichlorofluoromethane, Vinyl Chloride, Xylenes

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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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>.

Fact or Fiction

There is the same amount of water on Earth now as there was when the Earth was formed. *(Fact: The water that comes from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!)*

About half the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking. *(Fiction: Actually, the amount used for cooking and drinking is less than 1% of the total water produced!)*

A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water. *(Fact: Dehydration symptoms generally become noticeable after only 2% of one's normal water volume has been lost.)*

The first water pipes in the U.S. were made of cast iron. *(Fiction: The first water pipes were actually made of fire-charred bored logs.)*

The world's first municipal water filtration plant was opened in the United States. *(Fiction: The first plant was actually opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1832.)*

A person must consume a half-gallon of water daily to live healthily. *(Fact: A person should drink at least 64 ounces, or 8 cups, of water each day.)*

One gallon of gasoline poured into a lake can contaminate approximately 750,000 gallons of water. *(Fact)*

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 table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor 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.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
				The Utilities Board of Rainbow City		Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)	2010	[4]	[4]	TbG	NA	1.98	1.59–2.14	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2010	4	4	TbG	NA	0.098	0.059–1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	NA	60	NA	33.4	13.0–52.8	20.98	7.1–36.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2010	10	10	TbG	NA	0.67	0.67–0.67	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2010	80	NA	54.4	21.1–90.7	37.3	14.8–76.2	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2010	TT	NA	TbG	NA	1.56	0.9–2.3	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2010	TT	NA	TbG	NA	0.293	0.012–0.293	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity ²	2010	TT	NA	TbG	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES									
				The Utilities Board of Rainbow City		Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2010	250	NA	TbG	NA	13.7	13.7–13.7	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Color (Units)	2010	15	NA	TbG	NA	4.0	3.0–8.0	No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Iron (ppb)	2010	300	NA	TbG	NA	17	7–80	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2010	50	NA	TbG	NA	9	5–34	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2010	6.5-8.5	NA	TbG	NA	7.53	7.35–7.67	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2010	250	NA	TbG	NA	8.72	8.72–8.72	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2010	500	NA	TbG	NA	78	78–78	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2010	5	NA	TbG	NA	0.155	0.155–0.155	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	The Utilities Board of Rainbow City		Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board		TYPICAL SOURCE
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2010	TbG	NA	10.4	4.0–22.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2010	TbG	NA	2.9	2.4–3.2	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2010	TbG	NA	20.5	5.7–53.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2010	TbG	NA	5.6	1.3–19.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Sodium (ppm)	2010	TbG	NA	7.72	7.72–7.72	Naturally occurring

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	The Utilities Board of Rainbow City			Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board			VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
		AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES		
Copper	2010	1.3	1.3	0.08	0/30	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppm)	2010	15	0	0.019	0/30	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹Footnote for Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board: 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.

²Footnote for Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board: (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)

Definitions

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.

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).

TbG: Tested by Gadsden WWSB.

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