

Guntersville Water Board
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From Nature,



Treated By Us,



To You!



Annual Water Quality Report

Guntersville Water Board

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Annual Water Quality Report

PWS ID # AL 0000943

Guntersville Water Board has been providing clean water to the community since 1965, helping to keep you and your family healthy. We take this mission very seriously. As shown in this annual report covering the year 2000, the water we delivered surpassed the strict regulations of the State of Alabama and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Guntersville relies on surface water drawn from Brown's Creek embayment on Lake Guntersville at its Sunset Treatment Plant, and a well located at 1511 Blount Avenue. Drinking water is also purchased from MUB-Albertville through a surface plant drawing water from Short Creek on Lake Guntersville, which supplies customers on Sand Mountain. Guntersville Water supplies drinking water to the customers of Asbury Water Authority in the Asbury-Martling community.

Our source water from Brown's Creek entering our Sunset Drive surface plant is initially treated with activated carbon for taste and odor control at our raw water station. It is then pumped through an aerator to further oxidize the water for removal of any residual taste and odor. As water enters the rapid mix basin, polymer and a coagulant aid are added along with chlorine for disinfectant. Water then flows through our settling basins to our mix media filtration process. After filtration, fluoride is added for tooth decay protection. A poly orthophosphate is added for corrosion control in our mains and reservoirs. Our well at Blount Avenue treats water with an initial application of potassium permanganate for removal of manganese and iron. The well water then is filtered through two 10 foot diameter pressure filters after which chlorine, fluoride, and corrosion inhibitors are added to the finished water. Our certified water operators will be glad to further explain our treatment process in detail. Just give us a call. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. This report will be coming to you annually, and we will be continually upgrading our system to provide the highest quality water and the best service available.

If you have any questions about the treatment or chemicals used by Guntersville Water Board, please contact our office or Sunset Water Treatment Plant. The Guntersville Water Board's business office is located at 329 Gunter Avenue in the City Municipal Building. Our business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. We have monthly Board of Directors meetings that are open to the public the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Municipal Building. Our telephone numbers are: Office (256)-582-5931, Nights-Weekends-Holidays (256)-506-9000, Fax (256)-582-6923.

Guntersville Water Board is a member of: American Water Works Association, Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association, Alabama Rural Water Association.

Our Staff

Board of Directors

Jerry A. Nabors
Frank J. Richter, Jr.

Office

Nancy McCoy
Debra Sutton
Betty Ratchford
Jack Swann

Water Treatment

John Banks
Erving Conn
James Conn
Mike Esslinger
Scott Martin
Coy Starnes

Meter Readers

Rickey Chamblee
James Kenamer

Maintenance

Bill Carr
Jeff Davis
Brian Norrell
Mitchell Redington
Allen Walker

Wastewater Treatment

Mark Bevill
Dale Clayton
David Estes
David Hall
Mark Helton
Jim Murphree
Mike Spurgeon

Educational Information:

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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, 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 a 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 stations, 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.

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.

Vulnerable Population:

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 (1-800-426-4791).

Table of Primary Contaminants

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

1CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED		1CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	
		Well Water	Surface Water			Well Water	Surface Water
Bacteriological							
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	0	0.0	Endothall	100	ND	ND
2Turbidity	TT	0.2	0.084	Endrin	2	ND	ND
Radiological							
Beta/Photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l) (1998)	15	1.60		Glyphosate	700	ND	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	ND	Heptachlor	400	ND	ND
Inorganic							
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	ND	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ND	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	50	ND	ND	Hexachloropentadiene	1	ND	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	ND	Lindane	200	ND	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	ND	ND	Methoxychlor	40	ND	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ND	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	ND	PCBs	500	ND	ND
Chromium (ppb)	100	ND	ND	Pentachlorophenol	1	ND	ND
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	ND	ND	Picloram	500	ND	ND
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND	ND	Simazine	4	ND	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	1.10	1.12	Toxaphene	3	ND	ND
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	ND	ND	Benzene	5	ND	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	ND	Carbon Tetrachloride	5	ND	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	1.46	0.17	Chlorobenzene	100	ND	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	ND	Dibromochloropropane	200	ND	ND
Selenium	50	ND	ND	0-Dichlorobenzene	600	ND	ND
Thallium	2	ND	ND	p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ND	ND
Organic Chemicals							
2,4-D	70	ND	ND	1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ND	ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50	ND	ND	1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ND	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	ND	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ND	ND
Alachlor	2	ND	ND	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ND	ND
Atrazine	3	ND	ND	Dichloromethane	5	ND	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs]	200	ND	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ND	ND
Carbofuran	40	ND	ND	Ethylbenzene	700	ND	ND
Chlordane	2	ND	ND	Ethylene dibromide	50	ND	ND
Dalapon	200	ND	ND	Styrene	100	ND	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ND	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ND	ND
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates	6	ND	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	70	ND	ND
Dinoseb	7	ND	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ND	ND
Diquat	20	ND	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ND	ND
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ND	ND	Trichloroethylene	5	ND	ND
				3TTHM	100	38.00	
				Toluene	1	ND	ND
				Vinyl Chloride	2	ND	ND
				Xylenes	10	ND	ND

Table of Detected Contaminants

Of the many contaminants tested for, only these were detected.

1CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range	Amount Detected	Range	Amount Detected	Unit	Likely Source of Contamination
			Well Water	Surface Water	Well Water	Surface Water		
Bacteriological								
2Turbidity	0	TT	100 % of samples met NTU limits	0.20	100 % of samples met NTU limits	0.084	NTU	Soil runoff
Radiological								
Alpha emitters (1998)	0	15	0 - 1.60	1.6	0 - 0.00	ND	PCI/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Chemicals								
Fluoride	4	4	0.80 - 1.10	1.10	0.80 - 1.12	1.12	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10	10	ND - 1.46	1.46	ND - 0.17	0.17	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Organic Chemicals								
3TTHM	0	80	10.1 - 92.9 (range)	38 (annual rolling average)			ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Notes:

1The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

2Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

3TTHM acceptance is based on an annual average of quarterly samples. Some people who drink water-containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

*Although we ran many tests, only these Regulated & Unregulated substances were found to be present. They are all below the MCLs required by EPA. The active ingredients for Herbicides currently being sprayed on Guntersville Lake for control of Aquatic Weeds were tested for and not found at detectable levels.

**The Guntersville Water Board tested for Lead/Copper at 20 residences during 1998 and all test samples were at levels of "not detected".

***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.

Unregulated Contaminants Table

Unregulated contaminants monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. This table provides a quick glance of any unregulated or secondary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	Average Detected	Average Detected	CONTAMINANT	Average Detected	Average Detected
	Well Water	Surface Water		Well Water	Surface Water
1,1 - Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Chloroform	ND	ND
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	ND	Chloromethane	ND	ND
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	ND	Dibromochloromethane	ND	ND
1,1-Dichloroethane	ND	ND	Dibromomethane	ND	ND
1,2,3 - Trichlorobenzene	ND	ND	Dicamba	ND	ND
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	ND	ND	Dichlorodifluoromethane	ND	ND
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	ND	ND	Dieldrin	ND	ND
1,3 - Dichloropropane	ND	ND	Hexachlorobutadiene	ND	ND
1,3 - Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Isoprpylbenzene	ND	ND
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	ND	ND	M-Dichlorobenzene	ND	ND
2,2 - Dichloropropane	ND	ND	Methomyl	ND	ND
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	ND	ND	MTBE	ND	ND
Aldicarb	ND	ND	Metolachlor	ND	ND
Aldicarb Sulfone	ND	ND	Metribuzin	ND	ND
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	ND	ND	N - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
Aldrin	ND	ND	Naphthalene	ND	ND
Bromobenzene	ND	ND	N-Propylbenzene	ND	ND
Bromochloromethane	ND	ND	O-Chlorotoluene	ND	ND
Bromodichloromethane	ND	ND	P-Chlorotoluene	ND	ND
Bromoform	ND	ND	P-Isopropyltoluene	ND	ND
Bromomethane	ND	ND	Propachlor	ND	ND
Butachlor	ND	ND	Sec - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
Carbaryl	ND	ND	Tert - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
Chloroethane	ND	ND	Trichlorfluoromethane	ND	ND
Haloacetic Acid	7 - 58 (range) 37.6 (annual rolling average)				

Secondary & Physical Contaminants Table

CONTAMINANT	Average	Average	CONTAMINANT	Average	Average
	Well	Surface		Well	Surface
Aluminum	ND	ND	Total Alkalinity	ND	ND
Calcium	31.30	16.40	Chloride	ND	ND
Magnesium	ND	3.47	Sulfate	ND	ND
Manganese	ND	ND	Total Dissolved Solids	136.0	94.00
Nickel	ND	ND	pH	ND	ND
Silver	ND	ND	Odor	ND	ND
Zinc	ND	ND	Iron	ND	ND
Hardness	ND	ND	Sodium	3.4	6.00
Color	ND	ND	Potassium	ND	ND
Copper	0.34	ND	Carbon Dioxide	ND	ND

Detected Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. This table provides a quick glance of any unregulated or secondary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	Amount Detected	Distribution System
Haloacetic Acid (ppb)	7 - 58 (range)	37.6 (annual rolling average)

Detected Secondary & Physical Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	Level Detected		Unit
	Well Water	Surface Water	
Calcium	31.30	16.40	ppm
Magnesium	ND	3.47	ppb
Total Dissolved Solids	136.0	94.00	ppm
Sodium	3.40	6.00	ppb
Copper	0.34	ND	ppm

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 (MCLG): 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.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU or Nephelometric Turbidity Units: A measure of clarity.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

ppb or parts per billion: micrograms per liter (ug/l).

ppm or parts per million: milligrams per liter (mg/l).

pCi/L or picocuries per liter: a measure of radioactivity.

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

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