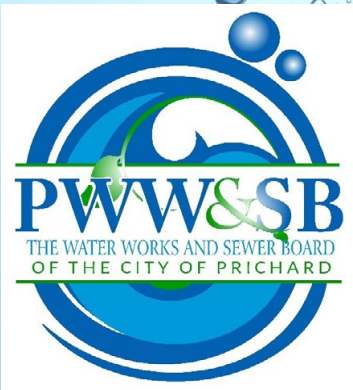


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By

**The Water Works and Sewer
Board of the City of Prichard**

Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Public Meetings

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

The Board of Directors:

Russell J. Heidelberg, Chairperson
Earnestine Moore, Vice-Chairperson
Beverly P. Bunch, Secretary/Treasurer
Cherry Doyle, Member
Eloise Hamilton, Member

“

Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

—W.H. Auden

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>.



How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Monitoring Noncompliance 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. During the fourth-quarter monitoring period (October through December 2022) for disinfection by-products (DBP), our contract laboratory sampled the system on November 8. According to the approved Stage 2 DBP Monitoring Plan, fourth-quarter DBP sampling is required to occur during the second week of November, which began seven days after the sampling occurred. While sampling results show that locational running annual average DBP levels were lower than the regulatory maximum contaminant level (MCL), because the sample was collected outside of the approved sampling period, this represents a monitoring noncompliance violation. Because DBPs from this quarter will be used in determining compliance for the first three quarters of 2023, the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard will incur monitoring noncompliance violations for those periods 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 noncompliance notice or monitoring requirements in general, please contact our office:

The Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard
125 East Clark Avenue
Prichard, AL 36610
(251) 457-3396

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 have various causes. Construction in the area, in-house water filtration, water system maintenance, recent plumbing work done in your home or business, or seasonal weather-related changes are just a few possibilities. Whatever the reason, we want to address those concerns, which may be conveyed by calling Customer Service at (251) 457-3396.

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.



Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use four gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

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 & 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 using a systematic method to improve water quality. System pressures are checked and maintained to a level that provides satisfactory usage to customers.

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 online at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



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 Department of Environmental Management 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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Antimony (ppb)	2022	6	6	ND	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.025	ND–0.025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	[4]	[4]	1.79	0.39–1.79	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2022	[800]	[800]	90.0	ND–90.0	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2022	1	0.8	0.74	0.24–0.74	No	Disinfection by-product
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2022	5	0	0.04	-0.11–0.04	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.96	0.24–0.96	No	Water additive promoting strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.23	0.19–0.23	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate + Nitrite (ppm)	2022	10	10	0.23	0.19–0.23	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon (removal ratio)	2022	TT ¹	NA	1.14	1.14–2.30	No	Naturally present in the environment

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community²

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (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 (ppb)	2019	15	0	<0.005	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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.

OTHER REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alkalinity [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	5.7	3.7–5.7	No	Naturally occurring
Aluminum (ppm)	2022	0.2	NA	ND	NA	No	NA
Calcium (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	15.0	ND–15.0	No	Naturally occurring
Carbon Dioxide (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	ND	NA	No	Naturally occurring
Gross Alpha Particles (pCi/L)	2022	15	0	-0.63	-1.72–0.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta Particles (pCi/L)	2022	50	0	-1.21	-1.58–1.21	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 (ppb)	2022	60	NA	37.63	0.9–45	No	Disinfection by-product
Hardness [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	42.0	28.0–42.0	No	Naturally occurring
Magnesium (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	1.10	ND–1.10	No	Naturally occurring
Orthophosphate [as P] (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	0.10	ND–0.10	No	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2022	NA	NA	3.80	3.4–3.8	No	Naturally occurring
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm)	2022	NA	NA	120	30–120	No	NA
Temperature, C (degrees)	2022	NA	NA	32.0	11.0–32.0	No	NA
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2022	80	NA	73.45	10.2–88.5	No	Disinfection by-product
Turbidity (NTU)	2022	0.3	NA	0.999	0.010–0.999	No	Soil runoff

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2022	250	NA	7.00	6.8–7.0	No	Disinfection by-product
Corrosivity (units)	2022	Noncorrosive	NA	-2.4	-2.8–2.4	No	NA
pH (units)	2022	6.5-8.5	NA	7.1	7.1–8.0	No	NA
Sulfate (ppm)	2022	250	NA	25.0	17.0–25.0	No	NA
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2022	500	NA	96.0	ND–96.0	No	Naturally occurring

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

²Samples were taken at 30 locations throughout the distribution system during the most recent sampling event, in 2019, in accordance with applicable regulations.

Nondetected Contaminants

MAWSS tests all primary contaminants, which include microbiological contaminants, radionuclides, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals (synthetic and volatile), and disinfection by-products. In addition, MAWSS tests for secondary contaminants and unregulated synthetic and volatile organic chemicals. The following substances were not detected above laboratory equipment limits.

1,1-Dichloroethane, 4-Chlorotoluene, Isopropylbenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, Aldicarb, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, Aldicarb sulfone, Methyl-tert-butyl ether, Aldicarb sulfoxide, Methomyl, Bromobenzene, Metribuzin, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, Bromochloromethane, Naphthalene, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, Bromoform, n-Butylbenzene, 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene, Bromomethane (Methyl bromide), Nickel, Butachlor, n-Propylbenzene, 1,3-Dichlorobenzene, Carbaryl, 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene, Chloroethane, p-Isopropyltoluene, 1,3-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Propachlor, sec-Butylbenzene, Dicamba, Dibromomethane, tert-Butylbenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Dichlorodifluoromethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, Dieldren, 2-Chlorotoluene, Hexachlorobutadiene, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Iron, Metolachlor, Aldrin, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, Fluorotrichloromethane, Chloroethane, Dibromomethane, p-Isopropyltoluene.

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

Dibromoacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane, alpha-Hexachlorocyclohexane, Butylated Hydroxyl Anisole, Anatoxin-a, Chlorpyrifos, Cylindrospermopsin, Dimethipin, Ethoprop, Microcystin, Total, o-Toluidine, Oxyfluorfen, Permethrins, Total, Profenofos, Quinoline, Tebuconazole, Tribufos.

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)

You may not be aware of it, but every time you pour fat, oil, or grease (FOG) down your sink (e.g., bacon grease), you are contributing to a costly problem in the sewer collection system. FOG coats the inner walls of the plumbing in your house as well as the walls of underground piping throughout the community. Over time, these greasy materials build up and form blockages in pipes, which can lead to wastewater backing up into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains. These backups allow FOG to contaminate local waters, including drinking water. Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. FOG discharged into septic systems and drain fields can also cause malfunctions, resulting in more frequent tank pump-outs and other expenses.

Communities spend billions of dollars every year to unplug or replace grease-blocked pipes, repair pump stations, and clean up costly and illegal wastewater spills. Here are some tips that you and your family can follow to help maintain a well-run system now and in the future:

NEVER:

- Pour fats, oil, or grease down the house or storm drains.
- Dispose of food scraps by flushing them.
- Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

ALWAYS:

- Scrape and collect fat, oil, and grease into a waste container, such as an empty coffee can, and dispose of it with your garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes.
- Place a wastebasket in each bathroom for solid wastes like disposable diapers, creams and lotions, and personal hygiene products, including nonbiodegradable wipes.