

Blount County Water Authority 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Blount County Water Authority is pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Quality Water 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 you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to maintain and continually improve the water you receive and to protect our water supply.

Our water is groundwater drawn from the Warren Spring which comes from the Pride Mountain Aquifer, and we purchase water from Douglas Water Authority. Each water system must complete a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The SWAP is comprised of four distinct activities: delineation of the source water assessment area, contaminant inventory, susceptibility analysis and public awareness. Blount County Water Authority has completed each requirement component of the source water assessment, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has approved the plan. The findings of SWAP are available for your review at the office in Cleveland. Chlorine is added throughout the system as a disinfectant.

Blount County Water Authority is delighted to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report, Douglas Water Authority's report, or concerning your water utility, please contact Tim Faulkner at (205) 625-5100. 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. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the office located at 18 Arena Drive in Cleveland, AL.

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. This table has many abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these abbreviations we have 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 ug/l – 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 (ng/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 (pg/L) – one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

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

- Millirems per years (mrem/yr) – measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

- Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) – a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity more than 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

- 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.

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – 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 (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 (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.

- MFL – Million Fibers per Liter.

- AL – Action Level – the concentrations of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers, treatment, or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

- TT – Treatment Technique – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

- Variances and Exemptions – The Department or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found E. coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment

because we found E. coli in our water system. In addition, we were required to take 3 corrective actions, and we completed 3 of these actions. A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system. A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

As you can see from the tables, our system had no violations of allowable limits of contaminants in your drinking water. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Blount County Water Authority wants you to be aware that there is not a problem with lead in your drinking water. 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. Blount County Water Authority 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 Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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.

Blount County Water Authority also tests for pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. These pathogens can enter water from animal or human waste. All test results were well within state and federal standards. This language does not indicate the presence of *Cryptosporidium* in our drinking water.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two 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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 is not required.

EPA and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) have mandated that each water system will provide an annual quality report to consumers. This report is designed to inform consumers about the quality of water from their water supplier. Blount County Water Authority strives to provide a dependable and safe supply of water to all consumers. We ask that you be considerate when accidents or mother nature hinder our efforts to supply your water. Regardless of the time, or weather, BCWA personnel are on call and working to keep your water flowing. Please help us protect our water sources, which are a vital part of our lives, and our children's future.

Blount County Water Authority

Board of Directors

Russell Martin, Chairman

Daniel White, Secretary

John Cates, Board Member

Robert Sanford, Board Member

Rusty Alldredge, Board Member

Table of Primary Contaminants

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

Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected	Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected
Bacteriological			Endrin	2 ppb	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	2.2	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Turbidity	5.0 NTU	.43	Glyphosate	700 ppb	ND
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	0	9	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	TT (ppm)	.47
Radiological			Heptachlor	400 ppt	ND
Beta/Photon Emitters (2021)	4	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	200 ppt	ND
Alpha Emitters	15	2.7	Hexachlorobenzene	1 ppb	ND
Combined Radium	5	.76	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50 ppb	ND
Inorganic			Lindane	200 ppt	ND
Antimony	6 ppb	<0.001	Methoxychlor	40 ppb	ND
Arsenic	10 ppb	<0.001	Oxamyl (Vydate)	200 ppb	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	PCBs	500 ppt	ND
Barium	2 ppm	0.018	Pentachlorophenol	1 ppb	ND
Beryllium	4 ppb	<0.001	Picloram	500 ppb	ND
Cadmium	5 ppb	<0.001	Simazine	4 ppb	ND
Chromium	100 ppb	<0.001	Toxaphene	3 ppb	ND
Copper	AL=1.3 ppm	.044	Benzene	5 ppb	ND
Cyanide	200 ppb	<0.02	Carbon Tetrachloride	5 ppb	ND
Fluoride	4 ppm	<0.20	Chlorobenzene	100 ppb	ND
Lead	AL=15 ppb	.002	Dibromochloropropane	200 ppt	ND
Mercury	2 ppb	<.001	o-Dichlorobenzene	600 ppb	ND
Nickel	100 ppb	<.001	p-Dichlorobenzene	75 ppb	ND
Nitrate	10 ppm	2.2	1,2-Dichloroethane	5 ppb	ND
Nitrite	1 ppm	<0.20	1,1-Dichloroethylene	7 ppb	ND
Selenium	50 ppb	<.001	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70 ppb	ND
Thallium	2 ppb	<.001	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100 ppb	ND
Organic Chemicals			Dichloromethane	5 ppb	ND
2,4-D	70 ppb	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane	5 ppb	ND
2,4,5-TB (Silvex)	50 ppb	ND	Ethylbenzene	700 ppb	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	Ethylene dibromide	50 ppt	ND
Alachlor	2 ppb	ND	Styrene	100 ppb	ND
Atrazine	3 ppb	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	5 ppb	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAHs)	200 ppt	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	70 ppb	ND
Carbofuran	40 ppb	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200 ppb	ND
Chlordane	2 ppb	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5 ppb	ND
Dalapon	200 ppb	ND	Trichloroethylene	5 ppb	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	400 ppb	ND	THHM	80 ppb	14.2
Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalates	6 ppb	ND	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	7.0
Dinoseb	7 ppb	ND	Toluene	1 ppm	ND
Diquat	20 ppb	ND	Vinyl Chloride	2 ppb	ND

Table of Primary Contaminants Continued

Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	30 ppq	ND	Xylenes	10 ppm	ND
Endothall	100 ppb	ND			

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (detected)			
Contaminant	MCL	Amount Detected	Violation
PFHxS (ppb)	NA	0.0018	N
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (undetected)			
Lithium	11CI-PF3OUdS		4:2 FTS
6:2 FTS	8:2 FTS		9CI-PF3ONS
ADONA	HFPO-DA		NFDHA
PFBS	PFDA		PFHxA
PFBA	PFEESA		PFHpS
PFMBA	PFMPA		PFPeS
PFPeA	PFPoA		PFHpA
PFHxS	PFNA		PFOS
PFOA	PFUnA		NEtFOSAA
NMeFOSAA	PFTeDA		PFTrDA

PFAS Compounds, No Established MCL's and None Detected

11CI-PFOUdS, 9CI-PF3ONS, ADONA, HFPO-DA, NEtFOSAA, NMeFOSAA, PFBS, PFDA, PFHxA, PFDaA, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFOS, PFOA, PFTeDA, PFTrDA, PFUnA, Toal PFAs

In addition to the primary contaminants, we monitor regularly for some of the following secondary and unregulated contaminants as required by ADEM.

Secondary Contaminants			
Monitoring results in ppb			
CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	VIOLATION Y/N
Aluminum (ppm)	2.0	.062	N
Calcium (ppm)	NA	59.5	N
Carbon Dioxide (ppm)	NA	85	N
Chloride (ppm)	250	9.11	N
Color (units)	15	<1.0	N
Conductance (umhos)	NA	291	N
Hardness (ppm CaCO3)	NA	164	N
Iron (ppm)	0.3	0.23	N
Magnesium (ppm)	NA	3.6	N
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	0.021	N
pH (std. units)	NA	7.66	N
Silver (ppm)	0.1	<.001	N
Sodium (ppm)	NA	6.71	N
Sulfate (ppm)	500	3.54	N
Total Alkalinity (ppm CaCO3)	NA	133	N
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	264	N
Zinc (ppm)	5	<.03	N

The fourth Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR4) was initiated by EPA in 2016. UCMR4 requires monitoring of 10 cyanotoxins and 20 additional unregulated chemical contaminants. These contaminants pose many of the same health risk as the regulated contaminants but their presence in most drinking water is not frequent enough to warrant regulation. Unregulated contaminants are tested to provide historical data on components present in drinking water over time.

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR4)			
Monitoring results in ppb			
CONTAMINANT	DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	DETECTED
Germanium	ND	Tribufos	ND
Manganese	0.021	1-butanol	ND
Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane	ND	2-methoxyethanol	ND
Chlorpyrifos	ND	2-propen-1-ol	ND
Dimethipin	ND	Butylated hydroxyanisole	ND
Ethoprop	ND	O-toluidine	ND
Oxyfluorfen	ND	Quinoline	ND
Profenofos	ND	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	.47
Tebuconazole	ND	HAA9 Group (2023)	2.3
Total permethrin (cis- & trans-)	ND	Bromide (2023)	16.6
Bromochloroacetic Acid (2023)	0.76		

Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR4) Continued			
Monitoring results in ppb			
Bromodichloroacetic Acid	ND	Monobromoacetic Acid	ND
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid	ND	Monochloroacetic Acid	ND
Dibromoacetic Acid	ND	Tribromoacetic Acid	ND
Dichloroacetic Acid	3.0	Trichloroacetic Acid	4.7
Bromoacetic Acid	ND	Bromodichloromethane	3.5
Chloroacetic Acid	ND	Dibromochloromethane	2.0

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity	No	0.43	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Radioactive Contaminants						
Alpha Emitters	No	2.7	pCi/l	N/A	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	No	.76	pCi/l	N/A	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium	No	0.018	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	No	9.11	ppb	N/A	250	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	No	2.2	ppm	N/A	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper	No	.044	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	.002	ppb	N/A	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	No	2.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
Total Trihalomethanes (THHM)	No	14.2	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	7.0	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	No	.47	ppm	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Chlorine	No	2.2	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Methylene Chloride (2022)	No	1.53	ppb	NA	5	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Bromodichloromethane	No	3.5	ppb	NA	NA	
Dibromochloromethane	No	2	ppb	NA	NA	
Chloroform	No	9.2	ppb	NA	NA	

The table below lists the contaminants that are not regulated by the EPA or ADEM but are tested for in your drinking water. These contaminants pose many of the same health risk as the regulated contaminants but their presence in most drinking water is not frequent enough to warrant regulation. Unregulated contaminants are tested to provide historical data on components present in drinking water over time.

Test Results – Unregulated Contaminant Table					
Monitoring Results in ppb					
CONTAMINANT	Low Result	High Result	CONTAMINANT	Low Result	High Result
1,1 – Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Chloroform	ND	9.2
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	ND	Chloromethane	ND	ND
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	ND	Dibromochloromethane	ND	2
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 – Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Hexachlorobutadiene	ND	ND
1,3 – Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Isopropylbenzene	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	3.5	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	Trichlorofluoromethane	ND	ND