

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



ATLANTA

*Presented By*  
**City of Atlanta, Texas**

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (903) 796-7153, ext. 114.

PWS ID#: TX0340001



## Our Commitment



We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

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 and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta's water is treated at the Graphic Packaging International Texarkana Mill. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed an assessment of Lake Wright Patman, and results indicate that it is susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Rick Barton, Water Production Manager, at (903) 798-3850.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

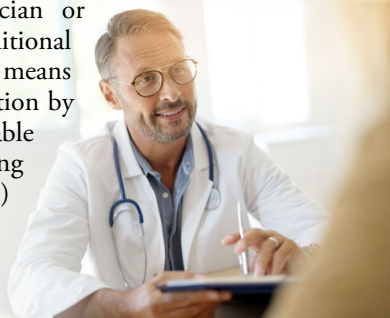
—Benjamin Franklin

## Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The city council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 315 North Buckner Street.

## Important Health Information

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to an aeration tank, which allows for oxidation of high iron levels. The water then goes to a mixing tank where polyaluminum chloride and soda ash are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles, called floc, to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. Chlorine is then added for disinfection. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges.

Chlorine is added again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, soda ash (to adjust the final pH and alkalinity), fluoride (to prevent tooth decay), and a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized underground reservoirs, water towers, and your home or business.

## Where Does My Water Come From?



The City of Atlanta receives water from Lake Wright Patman through a purchase contract with the City of Texarkana. The lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir formed on the Sulphur River in Bowie and Cass Counties by Wright Patman Dam. The reservoir provides flood control and water conservation for the communities downstream from the dam. The lake is also a popular recreational destination.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Becky Allen, Water Utility Representative, at (903) 796-7153, ext. 114.

## Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

FDA is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, visit [goo.gl/Jxb6xG](http://goo.gl/Jxb6xG).

### 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. This water supply is 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 [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the 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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and 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 which 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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Failure to Submit OEL Report for TTHM

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) and locational running annual average (LRAA) violation began on July 1 and ended on September 30, 2023. Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above the MCL for the period indicated.

A second MCL and LRAA violation began on October 1 and ended on December 31, 2023. Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above the MCL for the period indicated.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.





## About Our Violations

### 1. Consumer Confidence Rule

Violation Began: July 1, 2023

Violation Ended: November 3, 2023

We failed to provide to you, our drinking customers, with an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of your drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in it. The violation has been cleared.

### 2. Public Notification Rule

Violation Began: October 14, 2023

Violation Ended: October 26, 2023

We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. The violation has been cleared.

### 3. Failure to Submit OEL Report for TTHM

Violation Began: November 29, 2023

Violation Ended: January 5, 2024

We failed to submit our operational evaluation level (OEL) report to our regulator. The report is needed to determine the best treatment practices necessary to minimize possible future exceedances of total trihalomethanes (TTHM).

## Monthly Combined Filter Effluent (IESWTRL/ LT1)

**Violation Date: January 1 - 31, 2023**

The Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTRL) improves control of microbial contaminants, particularly *cryptosporidium*, in systems using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water. The rule builds upon the treatment technique requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded the standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure the effective filtration of drinking water.

Turbidity has no health effects; however, it 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.

## 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.

**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).

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



## 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.

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 is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set (unless a TOC violation is noted in the Violation column).

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
				City of Atlanta, Texas		Graphic Packaging Mill			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	NA	NA	0.037	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	[4]	[4]	1.49	0.85–2.20	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.05	NA	0.05 <sup>1</sup>	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	27	15.4–46.2	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.0516	NA	0.05	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [first site, DPB2-01] (ppb)	Fourth quarter 2023	80	NA	83.65 <sup>2</sup>	ND–160	NA	NA	Yes <sup>3</sup>	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [second site, DPB2-02] (ppb)	Fourth quarter 2023	80	NA	81.20 <sup>2</sup>	43.6–144.0	NA	NA	Yes <sup>3</sup>	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	90	ND–160	NA	NA	Yes <sup>3</sup>	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>4</sup> (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	NA	NA	1.00	NA	Yes <sup>5</sup>	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	95.0	NA	Yes <sup>5</sup>	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Copper (ppm)	2022	1.3	1.3	0.055	0/	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
Lead (ppb)	2022	15	0	1.5	0/	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits		

<sup>1</sup> Sampled in 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Locational running annual average.

<sup>3</sup> The City of Atlanta experienced TTHM exceedance over a two-quarter period beginning on July 1 and ending on December 31, 2023. The city purchases water that is treated at the Graphic Packaging Paper Mill. The filtration process at the mill was not robust enough to remove TTHMs for our local operators to remain in compliance during this timeframe. The water plant has modified the treatment process to better treat the water. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> This is a Graphic Packaging Mill violation only.

