

Community Participation

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

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www.gvillewater.com

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Continuing Our Commitment

Guntersville Water Board is proud to present to you our Annual Water Quality Report for drinking water monitoring completed from January through December 2010. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As always, we are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Guntersville Water Board

329 Gunter Ave.

Guntersville, AL 35976

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Guntersville Water Board

2010 Annual Water Quality Report





Required Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) statement addressing Lead in 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. Gunter's Creek Water Board 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 Safe Drinking Water hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 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.

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. 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 run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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 (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

This water system also tests our source water for pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. For people who may be immuno-compromised, a guidance document developed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control is available online at www.epa.gov/safewater/crypto.html or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. This language does not indicate the presence of *cryptosporidium* in our drinking water. All test results were well within state and federal standards.

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.

Source Water Assessment

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Gunter's Creek Water Board has completed a Source Water Assessment plan that will assist in protecting our water sources. This plan provides additional information such as potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contamination of the water source.

Public notification has been completed and the plan has been approved by ADEM. A copy of the report is available in our office for review during normal business hours, or you may purchase a copy upon request for a nominal reproduction fee.

Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was signed into law on December 16, 1974. The purpose of the law is to assure that the nation's water supply systems serving the public meet minimum national standards for the protection of public health. The SDWA directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish national drinking water standards. The 1996 Amendments to the SDWA created a need for Consumer Confidence Reports (Annual Water Quality Reports) to reveal to consumers the detected amounts of contaminants in their drinking water.

Where Does the Water Go?

The average American uses about 100 gallons of water a day, but only a small amount is used for cooking and drinking. Here are some of the ways that we use water:

1. Shower: About 2-5 gallons a minute.
2. Bathroom Sink: About 2-7 gallons a minute.
3. Toilet: Up to 7 gallons a flush.
4. Dishwasher: About 9-12 gallons a load.
5. Kitchen Sink: About 2-5 gallons a minute.
6. Washing Machine: About 41 gallons a load.

Newer appliances can save water by the gallons. Consider installing the following:

- High-efficiency washing machines-they use about 50% less water than traditional machines.
- Low-flow shower heads and faucets-they save up to 2.5 gallons of water a minute.
- High-efficiency toilets-they only use 1.6 gallons or less per flush.

Water Notes

Gunter's Creek relies on surface water from the Tennessee River Brown's Creek embayment on Lake Gunter's Creek at Sunset Treatment Plant and one groundwater well for our drinking water supply. We also purchase water from MUB-Albertville (surface water from Short Creek) to supply to our customers on Sand Mountain. Gunter's Creek Water Board supplies drinking water to the customers of Asbury Water Authority in the Asbury-Martling community.

Number of Customers:	Approximately 4300
Storage Capacity:	10 tanks (4,950,000 gls)
Distribution System:	120 miles of water mains

We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. For more information regarding this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Jack Swann, General Manager, at 256-582-5931.



www.gvillewater.com

At the end of this report, find a list of **Primary Drink Water Contaminants** and a list of **Unregulated Contaminants** for which our water system routinely monitors. These contaminants were *not* detected in your drinking water unless they are listed in the **Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants**.

TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Detected Water Plant	Detected Well	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	Range 1.7-2.6	Range 2.1-2.6	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity (NTU)	Not Required	Highest 0.22 100% <0.5	Not Required	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	No	1.6-3.8	N/A			Soil runoff
Copper (ppm)	No	0.202* 0 >Action Level	0.202* 0 >Action Level	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (ppm)	No	0.79	0.83	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	No	0.44	1.28	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	No	ND	0.68	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	No	Avg. 49.9 Range 2.45-64.1	Avg. 49.9 Range 2.45-64.1	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids] (ppb)	No	Avg. 44.8 Range ND-68.3	Avg. 44.8 Range ND-68.3	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated Contaminants

Chloroform (ppb)	No	15.6	2.48	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	No	3.17	ND	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff

Secondary Contaminants

Chloride	No	8.60	9.14	N/A	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Hardness	No	70.7	99.2	N/A		Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
pH	No	7.37	7.32	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sulfate (ppm)	No	20.3	1.92	N/A	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural run-off
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	No	116	132	N/A	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural run-off

*Figure shown is 90th percentile and # of sites above action level (1.3 ppm) = 0

As you can see by the above table, our system had no violations. 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. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Guntersville Water Board conducted an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (I.D.S.E.) in 2008 and early 2009 to further study disinfection byproduct levels in our drinking water.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation Feb. 2008 - Aug. 2009

TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	Range 21.2-74.3	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	Range 14.6-93.6	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt.	Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt.	
Bacteriological Contaminants			Organic Contaminants			
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present or absent	2,4-D	70	ppb	
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0	present or absent	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50	ppb	
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Acrylamide	TT		
Radiological Contaminants			Alachlor	2	ppb	
Beta/Photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppb	
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Carbofuran	40	ppb	
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Chlordane	2	ppb	
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Dalapon	200	ppb	
Inorganic Chemicals			Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb	
Antimony	6	ppb	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb	
Arsenic	10	ppb	Dinoseb	7	ppb	
Asbestos	7	MFL	Diquat	20	ppb	
Barium	2	ppm	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	Picograms/l	
Beryllium	4	ppb	Chloramines	4	ppm	
Cadmium	5	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm	
Chromium	100	ppb	HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	60	ppb	
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	
Cyanide	200	ppb	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	
Fluoride	4	ppm	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb	
Lead	AL=15.0	ppb	Dichloromethane	5	ppb	
Mercury	2	ppb	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb	
Nitrate	10	ppm	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb	
Endothall	100	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppb	
Endrin	2	ppb	Styrene	100	ppb	
Epiclorohydrin	TT	ppb	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb	
Glyphosate	700	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb	
Heptachlor	400	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb	
Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppb	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb	
Hexachlorobenzene	ppb		TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	80	ppb	
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	ppb		Toluene	1	ppm	
Lindane	50	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb	
Methoxychlor	40	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppb	
Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm	
Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb	
Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb	
Picloram	500	ppb	Unregulated Contaminants			
Simazine	4	ppb	1,1-Dichloropropene	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Dibromomethane	N-Propylbenzene
Toxaphene	3	ppb	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Aldrin	Dicamba	O-Chlorotoluene
Benzene	5	ppb	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Bromobenzene	Dichlorodifluoromethane	P-Chlorotoluene
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	1,1-Dichloroethane	Bromochloromethane	Dieldrin	P-Isopropyltoluene
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Bromodichloromethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	Propachlor
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppb	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Bromoforn	Isopropylbenzene	Sec-Butylbenzene
o-Dichlorobenzene	200	ppb	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Bromomethane	M-Dichlorobenzene	Tert-Butylbenzene
p-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	1,3-Dichloropropane	Butachlor	Methomyl	Trichlorfluoromethane
1,2-Dichloroethane	75	ppb	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Carbaryl	MTBE	
Nitrite	1	ppm	2,2-Dichloropropane	Chloroethane	Melolachlor	
Total Nitrate and Nitrite	10	ppm	3-Hydroxycarbuturan	Chloroform	Meltriazin	
Selenium	50	ppb	Aldicarb	Chloromethane	N-Butylbenzene	
Thallium	2	ppb	Aldicarb Sulfone	Dibromochloromethane	Naphthalene	

Definitions

In this report you may find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Coliform Absent (ca) – laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Disinfection byproducts – are formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter (i.e. decaying vegetation) present in the source water. Different disinfectants produce different types or amounts of disinfection byproducts. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes (THM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) – a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

Maximum Contaminant Level – (mandatory language) 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 – (mandatory language) 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.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Not Required (NR) – laboratory analysis not required due to waiver granted by the Environmental Protection Agency for the State of Alabama.

Parts per billion (ppb) or 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 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 quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/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.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

Treatment Technique (TT) – (mandatory language) a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) – State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Monitoring Schedule

Guntersville Water Board routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Our report shows that during the past year, the water delivered to your home and business complied with or exceeded all state and federal drinking water regulations. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently; therefore, in these cases the most recent sample data are included. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

TVA is conducting a herbicide spraying program on Guntersville Lake to help control aquatic weeds. For the year 2010 (see TVA chart below) no contaminants were found at detectable limits. As you can see by the Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants, our system had no violations. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. This report shows our water quality and what it means.



TVA Herbicide Testing Results

	Date Sampled	Copper
Finished	6/07/2010	<0.50
Finished	6/23/2010	<0.50

Constituent Monitored Date Monitored

Inorganic Contaminants	2010
Lead/Copper	2010
Microbiological Contaminants	current
Nitrates	2010
Radioactive Contaminants	2003
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides and herbicides)	2010
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2010
Disinfection By-products	2010
UCMR2 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule) Contaminants	2010
Cryptosporidium	2009