

Report to Consumers on Water Quality —2010—



Is our water safe to drink?
Absolutely!

Ascension Water Company is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This 13th annual water quality report for the monitoring period of January 1 to December 31, 2010, shows the source of our water, lists the results of the most recent positive tests done on our water in accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, and contains important information about water and health. We at Ascension Water Company are happy to show you that there were **no violations**, and how we've surpassed water-quality standards. Our Source Water Assessment, for which we have a susceptibility ranking of medium by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, is available for review in our offices during normal business hours.

EPA Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. US Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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.

As previously stated, our drinking water is drawn from wells which are not under the influence of surface water. Other sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and springs.

As water travels over the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and 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:

(a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(b) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(c) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(d) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(e) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Source

We operate 31 ground water wells completed in the various sands of the Southern Hills aquifer system which underlie our service area. Water from these sands is of excellent quality with a natural low hardness concentration and is not subject to surface water influences. Our system is backed up by diesel generators preventing widespread service outages if electrical service is interrupted.

Public Water Supply ID # 1033019

We welcome your input into decisions affecting your drinking water service. Please call us at: (225) 925-2011, or (225) 675-5644,

or write us at:

Ascension Water Company
Post Office Box 96003
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896-6003

Our office location is:
8755 Goodwood Blvd (near Woman's Hospital)
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806-7916

Our office hours are:
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Monday through Friday, Except Holidays

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available on the world wide web at
www.epa.gov/safewater

Contaminant	Date	Violation	Unit ¹	MCL (AL)	MCL G	Range of Detects Lowest	Highest	RAA	Major Sources ²
Arsenic	6-22-09	NO	ppb	10	0	ND	1		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Copper	2010	NO	ppm	(1.3)	SMCL	ND	.1 ³		Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate	11-8-10	NO	ppb	6	0	.53	2.67		Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate	1-25-10	NO	ppb	400	400	ND	.72		Discharge from chemical factories.
Fluoride	11-8-10	NO	ppm	4	² SMCL	.1	.9		Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	2010	NO	ppb	(15)	0	ND	2.0 ²		Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Trihalomethane Total	2010	NO	ppb	80	0	ND	8.2	2.44	By- Products of water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids	2010	NO	ppb	60	0	ND	5.7	2.13	By- Products of water chlorination.

Notes to accompany table:

¹ Please note that most “Units” have been modified from the traditional MCL reporting units of mg/l to units which provide detected level numbers greater than one (1). This has been done to comply with the EPA requirements for this report. Use caution when comparing detected levels in this table to MCLs listed elsewhere.

² “Major Sources” were taken verbatim from the EPA regulation. We have no data to indicate there are any local/manmade sources of these contaminants in our water.

³ The level reported as “Highest Detect” for lead and copper is actually the 90th percentile result per the NPDWR.

(AL = Action Level; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; SMCL=Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level; ND = Not Detected; pCi/L = Pico curies per liter; ppm = parts per million = milligrams per liter; ppb = parts per billion = micrograms per liter; RAA = Running Annual Average.)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Routine distribution samples collected on March 15, 2011 revealed two of our distribution sample sites tested positive for total non-fecal coliform. Upon notification we immediately resampled the distribution sample sites in question, along with one site upstream and one site downstream of each sample stations. Five water wells were also sampled. All samples tested negative for bacterial contamination. Due to confusion over how the new EPA Ground Water Rule is written our water system did not collect concurrent (back to back) source water samples at those wells. Upon notification of this violation we immediately resampled the 5 water wells. Once again all samples tested negative for bacterial contamination.

While the quality of the water we distributed is not, and never was, in doubt we are required by federal and state regulation to include the following violation language in this notice even though it does not accurately apply to this situation.

“Our water system is currently in violation of the source water monitoring requirements as set forth in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (40 C.F.R Part 141). Our water system recently failed to collect source water samples for fecal indicators within 24 hours following a total coliform-positive routine distribution system sample.”

As stated earlier we did sample every one of the affected wells within 24 hours, however, EPA’s interpretation is we should have taken two samples, one right after the other, at each of the affected wells—we took only one set of samples resulting in this technical violation.

You have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

Please share this information with all the 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.

What Does the Table Mean?

The table on the back page is the most important part of this report. It was prepared in strict accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR): Consumer Confidence Reports (40 CFR 141 and 142). All testing was done by the Department of Health and Hospitals, State of Louisiana; by the USEPA; or by EPA or State certified laboratories. Information on contaminants reported in the table include the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the highest level detected in any sample, the range of levels detected, the usual sources of such contamination as determined by EPA, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. The data in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Several important definitions are:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

Action Level or AL: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. We do not exceed the action level for any contaminant.

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.

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.