Drinking Water Information

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 the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases 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:

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 the result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial chemical 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure 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.

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 the water poses a health risk

Some people might be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immune compromised due to illness, the elderly, as well as infants can be at risk from infection. Those at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines are appropriate measures to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

West Morgan East Lawrence

Water and Sewer Authority

P.O. Box 2254 Decatur, AL 35609
(256)355-3746
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

2020 Annual Water Quality Report

We prepared this report to inform you of the quality of your drinking water using testing data conducted for our system from January to December 2020. We strive to deliver water that meet or exceeds regulatory requirements for quality and safety. The regularly scheduled board meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Authority board room located at 2547 Kirby Bridge Road. For information concerning this report or water quality, please contact the treatment plant at (256) 637-2969.
Board Members: Mark Clark, Chairman; Hal Lee, Vice Chairman; Keith Russell, Secretary; Ken James, Member; Amard Martin, Member

WMELSA incurred a Total Organic Carbon (TOC) reporting non compliance. The Non compliance resulted from a failure to submit the August 2020 results by Sept. 10th, 2020. The compliance failure was due to a transmission issue from our lab to the state database.

Our water source is surface water from the wheeler Lake reservoir on the Tennessee River, which is processed at the J.D. Sims – R.M. Hames Water Treatment Facility, located at Lock A, near Hillsboro in Lawrence County. We also have connections with Decatur Utilities for an emergency supply if needed. We have completed our source water protection plan as required by EPA. This plan provides information about potential sources of contamination in our source water area and is available at our office.

Treatment Technique: Our raw water is treated with Chlorine Dioxide, Lime, and Alum in the process of removing contaminants by causing them to coagulate and settle out in our settling basins. The water is then filtered through Micro Membrane and GAC filters. Sodium Hypochlorite is added for disinfection, and Lime to adjust pH.

Variance and Waivers

In 1998, WMELSA completed lead and copper monitoring without exceeding any action level. The Authority will continue to monitor for lead and copper every three years. Based on a study conducted by ADEM, with the approval of EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants is not required.

MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

We are currently under the construction of our Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant and are making good progress. We recently won Runner up in the Alabama Rural Water Annual Drinking Water Taste Test. We are proud of our employees who strive to produce the best quality water to their ability. We are also pleased to announce that the town of Courtland has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). The town will be working jointly with us in replacing aging water infrastructure. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding. We, at West Morgan East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

Jeaniece Slater, General Manager

Monitoring Schedule	
The EPA or ADEM requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with this regulatory schedule.	
Constituents Monitored	**Year**
Inorganic Contaminants	**2020**
Lead/Copper	**2019**
Microbial Contaminants	**2020**
Nitrates	**2020**
Radioactive Contaminants	**2020**
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	**2020**
Volatile Organic Contaminants	**2020**
Disinfection By Products	**2020**
Cryptosporidium	**2017**
UCMR 4	**2018**
DSE Disinfection Byproducts	**2017**

Plain Language Definitions:

MCL- Maximum Contaminant Level- highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

MCLG- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal- the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

AL (Action Level)- the concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements to be followed.

TT (Treatment Technique)- required process to reduce a contaminant.

PPM- parts per million or milligrams per liter- corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or a single penny in $10,000.

PPB- parts per billion or micrograms per liter- corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.

PPT- parts per trillion or nanograms per liter- corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000,000 years or 1 penny in $10,000,000,000.

NTU- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit- measurement of the clarity of water.

N/A- Not applicable

Non- Detect- constituent is not present

HAA5- Total Haloacetic Acids

TTHM- Total Trihalomethanes

Detected Drinking Water Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	RANGE	DETECTED	UNIT	CONTAMINATION SOURCE
Chlorine	**MDRL 4**	**MDRL 4**	**1.01-2.67**	**1.65**	**ppm**	**water additive used to control microbes**
Chlorine Dioxide	**n/a**	**.8**	**0-.09**	**.01**	**ppm**	**water additive used to control microbes**
Chlorite	**n/a**	**1.0**	**0-.53**	**.06**	**ppm**	**water additive used to control microbes**
Turbidity	**0**	**TT**	**-**	**.033**	**NTU**	**Soil runoff**
Total Organic Carbon	**n/a**	**TT**	**0- 2.15**	**.42**	**ppm**	**Soil runoff**
Nitrate, as N	**10**	**10**	**n/a**	**.65**	**ppm**	**Runoff from fertilizer use, sewage**
Barium	**2**	**2**	**n/a-.021**	**.021**	**ppm**	**discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits**
HAA5	**0**	**60**	**1.2-18**	**6.1**	**ppb**	**disinfection by product**
TTHM	**0**	**80**	**2.2-28**	**16.02**	**ppb**	**disinfection by product**
Unregulated Contaminants						
PFOA	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0-14**	**5.7**	**ppt**	**manufacturing chemical found in soil, air, and groundwater**
PFOS	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0-15**	**3.8**	**ppt**	**manufacturing chemical found in soil, air, and groundwater**
Dibromochloromethane	**n/a**	**n/a**	**0-.0012**	**.0012**	**ppb**	**naturally occurring in the environment, or runoff**
Secondary Contaminants						
Aluminum	**n/a**	**.2**	**.014**	**.014**	**ppm**	**mining and weathering of minerals, naturally occurring**
Chloride	**n/a**	**250**	**7.2**	**7.2**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff**
Calcium	**n/a**	**n/a**	**28.7**	**28.7**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment, dissolved mineral**
Magnesium	**n/a**	**n/a**	**3.3**	**3.3**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the envirnment**
Iron	**n/a**	**.3**	**.010- .040**	**.019**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment or water treatment**
Manganese	**n/a**	**.05**	**.002-.045**	**.018**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment**
pH	**n/a**	**6.5-8.5**	**6.9-8.1**	**7.75**	**n/a**	**naturally occurring in the environment or runoff**
Sodium	**n/a**	**n/a**	**5.4**	**5.4**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring**
Sulfate	**n/a**	**250**	**32.8**	**32.8**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment or runoff**
Total Dissolved Solids	**n/a**	**500**	**94.0**	**94.0**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment or runoff**
Total Hardness, as CaCO3	**n/a**	**n/a**	**85.3**	**85.3**	**ppm**	**naturally occurring in the environment or runoff**
Specific Conductance	**n/a**	**n/a**	**200**	**200**	**umhos/cm**	**measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current**
Langelier Index	**n/a**	**n/a**	**.67**	**-.67**	**ppm**	**waters tendency to inhibit or encourage corrosion**
Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (Tested on source water, pre-treatment)						
Cryptosporidium	**0**	**TT**	**0-3**	**3**	**ocysts/L**	**wildlife/human activity**
Giardia	**0**	**TT**	**0-5**	**5**	**cysts/L**	**wildlife/human activity**

Standard of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants					
Contaminant	**MCL**	**Unit**	**Contaminant**	**MCL**	**Unit**
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present or absent	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Fecal Coliform and Ecoli	0	present or absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calculated organisms/L	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Beta/Photon emitters	4	mewm/yr	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb
Alpha emitters	15	pCI/L	Dinoseb	7	ppb
Combined Radium	5	pCi/L	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD}30	30	ppq
Uranium	30	pCi/L	Diquat	20	ppb
Antimony	6	ppb	Endothall	100	ppb
Arsenic	10	ppb	Endrin	2	ppb
Asbestos	7	MFL	Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
Barium	2	ppm	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Beryllium	4	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt
Cadmium	5	ppb	Glyphosphate	700	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Heptachlor	400	ppt
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt
Cyanide	200	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Lindane	200	ppt
Mercury	2	ppb	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	oxaml{Vydate}	200	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	0.5	ppb
Selenium	.05	ppm	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Thallium	.002	ppm	Picloram	500	ppb
2,4-D	70	ppb	Simazine	4	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	Styrene	100	ppb
Alachlor	2	ppb	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
Benzene	5	ppb	Toluene	1	ppm
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppl	Toxaphene	3	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50	ppb
Carbon Tetrachloride	5	ppb	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ppm
Chlordane	2	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Dalapon	200	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Vinylchloride	2	ppb
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	Chloramines	4	ppm
Bromate	10	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
TTHM	80	ppb	HAA5	60	ppb

1,1-Dichloropropene	1,1-Dichloroethane	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Aldicarb	Metolachlor	Choroform
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	1,3-Dichloropropane	Aldicarb Sulfone	N-Butylbenzene	Dieldrin
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	1,2,3-Trichloropropane	1,3-Dichlrorpropene	Aldrin	Naphthalene	Dicamba
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Bromobenzene	Bromodichloromethane	Bromoform	N-Propylbenzene	Methomyl
2,2-Dichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	P-isopropyltoluene	Butachlor	O-Chlorotoluene	MTBE
Dichlorodifluoromethane	Dibromomethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	Carbaryl	P-Chlorotoluene	Metribuzin
Dibromochloromethane	Isopropy;benzene	M-Dichlorobenzene	Chloroethane	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Propachlor
Sec-Butylbenzene	Tert-Butylbenzene	Trichlorofluoromethane	Chloromethane	Bromomethane	

UCMR 4 The fourth unregulated contaminant monitoring rule requires some systems to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants during 2018-2020. The table below shows the results of the detected contaminants.		
Contaminants	**Detected (ppb)**	**Range**
Raw Water (before treatment0		
Bromide	33.5	27.4-45.3
Total Organic Carbon	2428	2040-3060
Entry Point (treatment plant)		
Manganese	.944	.485-1.60
Distribution System Data		
HAA5	5.41	2.91-7.52
HAA6Br	6.54	4.19-9.58
HAA9	10.45	6.29-14.37

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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 Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television, or radio. 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. WMELWSA cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components, When your water has been sitting for several hours, you should flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes to minimize the potential for lead exposure. Information on lead in drinking water is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.