

The Water We Drink

City of Ponchatoula - Public Water Supply ID: LA1105019

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2010. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). 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. Our water source(s) are:

<u>Source Name</u>	<u>Source Water Type</u>
City Maintenance Yard	Ground Water
Tower Road Well	Ground Water

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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, 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 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 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.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'MEDIUM'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at the number provided in the following paragraph.

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. City of Ponchatoula 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings, or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact Dave Opdenhoff at 985-386-2098.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2010. 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.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

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 Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

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

Action level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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

Maximum contaminant level (MCL) - the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

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.

During the period covered by this report we had below noted violations of drinking water regulations.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Analyte</u>	<u>Compliance Period</u>
No violations occurred in the calendar year 2010			

Our water system tested a minimum of 6 samples per month monthly sample(s) in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, we had the following noted detections for microbiological contaminants:

<u>Microbiological</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Coliform (TCR)	In the month of July, 1 sample returned as positive	MCL: Systems that collect less than 40 samples per month-No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that have detectable levels. These samples, except for Lead and Copper results and surface water systems, were collected at the raw water source and represent water before any treatment, blending or distribution. As such, the consumer tap levels could be less. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

<u>Regulated Contaminants</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Value</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Fluoride	6/1/2009	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

<u>Lead & Copper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>90th Percentile</u>	<u>95th Percentile</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Sites over AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Lead	2008 - 2010	1	1	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<u>Radionuclides</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Value</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
No detected results were found in the calendar year of 2010							

<u>DBP Contaminants</u>	<u>Monitoring Period</u>	<u>RAA</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Total Halo Acetic Acids (HAA5)	1/1/2010-12/31/2010	3.05	3 – 3.1	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010	15.05	11.4-18.7	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

EPA Required Health Effects Language

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

We at the City of Ponchatoula work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year.