



**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Board Members**

Chairman: Neal A. Holland, Jr.  
 Term: July 1, 2014-June 30, 2023  
 Secretary: Tom Counts  
 Term: July 1, 2017-June 30, 2026  
 Member: Al Cheatham  
 Term: January 2, 2018-June 30, 2020

**DECATUR UTILITIES WATER SOURCE**

Decatur Utilities serves approximately 25,000 customers in all portions of the City of Decatur and routinely provides water to the City of Hartselle, Northeast Morgan County Water District, Limestone County, and the Town of Trinity. West Morgan East Lawrence Water District has the capability to buy water from Decatur Utilities upon request.

We obtain 100% of our water from Wheeler Reservoir on the Tennessee River. Our Water Treatment Plant has the capacity to treat 68 million gallons per day (MGD) of raw water. Chemical treatment consists of sodium permanganate for oxidation, fluoride to promote dental health, polyaluminum chloride for coagulation, lime for pH adjustment, poly-orthophosphate for stabilization, and chlorine for disinfection. There are four in-ground water storage tanks and six elevated storage tanks which provide a combined storage capacity of 23,967,000 gallons of water.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT**

Our goal is to protect our water supply from any future contamination. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report on our water supply in 2000. The SWAP report assessed the susceptibility of our untreated water sources to potential contamination. Our water system was rated as having a moderate risk from contamination. This report is available for review at the DU Main Office during normal business hours or by appointment.

To learn more about Decatur Utilities and your water supply, we encourage you to attend any of our regularly scheduled DU Board Meetings normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in our Main Office located at 1002 Central Parkway SW.

**LEAD AND 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 private service lines and home plumbing. DU is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Lead is rarely found in source water.

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 the 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 (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water).

**Definitions and Abbreviations**

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- Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers some follow-up action.
  - Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)** - the state environmental regulatory agency.
  - Alabama Water Pollution Control Association (AWPCA)** - a charitable organization to advance knowledge about water supply and treatment.
  - Coliform Absent (ca)** - Laboratory analysis indicates coliform bacteria not present.
  - Disinfection Byproducts** - formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with natural organic matter present in the source water and produce byproducts.
  - Distribution System Evaluation (DSE)** - a one-year study conducted by water systems to monitor disinfection byproducts.
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - the nation's environmental regulatory agency.
  - Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water.
  - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
  - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL)** - maximum levels for disinfectants, set as close to the health goals as possible.
  - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG)** - non-enforceable health goals, based on possible health risks and exposure over a lifetime, with an adequate margin of safety.
  - Microsiemens (1/1,000,000 siemen) per centimeter** - a measure of Specific Conductance.
  - Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
  - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water.
  - Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.
  - Not Required (NR)** - laboratory analysis not required due to waiver.
  - Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)** - 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)** - corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
  - Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)** - 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)** - corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
  - Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.
  - Running annual average (RAA)** - the required method of calculating compliance on disinfection byproducts, TTHM and HAA5.
  - Specific Conductance (SC)** - A measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current.
  - Threshold Odor Number (TON)** - the greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that yields a barely detectable odor.
  - Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process to reduce a contaminant.
  - Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)** - EPA program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards.
  - Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**2018 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Testing Performed January - December 2017



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**EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Decatur Utilities Water Treatment Plant has been recognized numerous times for outstanding service, receiving several excellence awards over the years. The most recent awards are:



- ◆ AWPCA Best Operated Plant Award of Excellence 2 consecutive years (2016-2017)
- ◆ AWPCA Best Operated Distribution System 3 consecutive years (2015-2017)
- ◆ ADEM Optimized Plant Award 4 consecutive years (2013-2016)

**MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Decatur Utilities is proud to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the source and quality of your drinking water. We have prepared this report using the data from water quality testing conducted for the water system from January through December 2017.

At Decatur Utilities, we deliver more than high quality water. We deliver a key resource for public health, fire protection, industry, the economy, and the overall quality of life we enjoy in Northern Alabama. We also deliver great value. Our current residential rates continue to be one of the lowest in the state. We take great pride in *"providing safe, reliable utility service at the lowest possible rates while meeting the needs of customers and employees."*

If you have any questions or concerns about this report or your water utility, please contact our Water Treatment Plant at (256) 552-1480. To obtain additional copies of this report, please call Customer Service at (256) 552-1400 or visit us online at [www.decaturutilities.com](http://www.decaturutilities.com).

More information about contaminants in drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Ray Hardin, General Manager



**Please Share this Report**

Landlords, businesses, schools, hospitals and other groups are encouraged to share this important water quality information with water users at their location.



**DRINKING WATER INFORMATION**

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.

All drinking water, including bottled 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. MCLs, defined in the **Definitions and Abbreviations** 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or from urban storm water run-off, wastewater discharges, oil/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 byproducts 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. Immunocompromised 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.

Decatur Utilities also tests your source water for pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. General information for immunocompromised persons is available on the official website of the Center for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/gen\\_info/infect\\_ic.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/gen_info/infect_ic.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.

**MONITORING SCHEDULE**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the State of Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), lead and copper, and synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs).

Decatur Utilities has been granted a waiver to reduce sampling for Lead/Copper and SOCs to once every three years. This is based on prior sampling events not detecting these contaminants.

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with EPA approval, a statewide waiver for monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Therefore, these contaminants were not sampled. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

Constituents Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2017
Lead/Copper	2015
Microbiological Contaminants	current
Nitrates	2017
Radioactive Contaminants	2012
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	2017
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2017
Disinfection Byproducts	2017
Cryptosporidium	2017
UCMR3	2014
DSE Disinfection Byproducts	2017

As you can see by the table of **Detected Drinking Water Contaminants** below, our system had no violations. We have determined through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. For assistance interpreting these tables, reference the **Definitions and Abbreviations** section on the reverse side.

DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant Type	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	Unit Msmt	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Regulated Contaminants</b>							
Chlorine	NO	RAA 2.54	2.33-2.94	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon	NO	RAA 1.5	1.3-1.9	ppm	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Turbidity (filtered)	NO	Highest 0.099	0.025-0.099	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Copper	NO	0.387* 0>AL	ND-0.540	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from preservatives
Fluoride - WTP	NO	1.10	0.38-1.10	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	NO	0.57	0.57	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	HRAA 27.9	6.50-39.0	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	HRAA 20.5	12.3-26.9	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Chloroform	NO	12.2	12.2	ppb	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Bromodichloromethane	NO	7.97	7.97	ppb	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Chlorodibromomethane	NO	1.94	1.94	ppb	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>							
Alkalinity, Total (as CA, Co <sub>3</sub> )	NO	58	41-63	ppm	none	none	Caused by carbonates, bicarbonates, hydroxides, phosphates, silicates
Calcium, as Ca	NO	23.4	23.4	ppm	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment; dissolved minerals
Carbon Dioxide	NO	6.70	6.70	ppm	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment
Chloride	NO	18.8	18.8	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Color	NO	4.0	ND-4.0	units	none	15	Naturally occurring in the environment or water treatment
Hardness, as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	NO	81.2	81.2	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Iron	NO	0.10	ND-0.10	ppm	none	0.30	Naturally occurring in the environment; erosion; leaching from pipes
Magnesium	NO	5.55	5.55	ppm	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment; dissolved minerals
pH	NO	7.20	6.90-7.30	S.U.	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Sodium	NO	9.35	9.35	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment
Specific Conductance	NO	230	230	µS/cm	n/a	n/a	Measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current
Sulfate	NO	15.0	15.0	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Total Dissolved Solids	NO	120	120	ppm	n/a	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
<b>Distribution System Evaluation (DSE) Contaminants</b>							
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	Avg. 20.1	5.1 – 56.0	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	Avg. 18.0	9.2 – 36.1	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

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

The EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3) required some water systems to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants during 2013-2015. Our system sampled during 2014 and the results are shown below.

DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS		
Contaminant	Amount Detected (ug/L)	Range (ug/L)
<i>Entry Point Data (Water Treatment Plant)</i>		
1,4-dioxane	0.14	0.1-0.2
Strontium	66	57-74
Chromium-6	0.06	0.05-0.07
Chlorate	83	27-130
Vanadium	0.4	0-0.7
<i>Distribution System Data</i>		
Strontium	68	58-74
Chromium-6	0.10	0.08-0.12
Chlorate	85	30-130
Vanadium	0.4	0-0.8

Below is a table of contaminants for which the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management require testing. These contaminants were not detected in your drinking water unless they are also listed in the **Detected Drinking Water Contaminants** table.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants</b>			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present/absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0	present/absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calc.organi-smst/l	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>			Dinoseb	7	ppb
Beta/photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ppq
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Diquat	20	ppb
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endothal	100	ppb
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Endrin	2	ppb
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>			Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
Antimony	6	ppb	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Arsenic	10	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt
Asbestos	7	MFL	Glyphosate	700	ppb
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor	400	ppt
Beryllium	4	ppb	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt
Cadmium	5	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Lindane	200	ppt
Cyanide	200	ppb	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Polychlorinated biphenyls	0.5	ppb
Mercury	2	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	Picloram	500	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	Simazine	4	ppb
Selenium	.05	ppm	Styrene	100	ppb
Thallium	.002	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>			Toluene	1	ppm
2,4-D	70	ppb	Toxaphene	3	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	2,4,5-TP [Silvex]	50	ppb
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ppm
Atrazine	3	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Benzene	5	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppt	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
Chlordane	2	ppb	<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection Byproducts</b>		
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
Dalapon	200	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	Chloramines	4	ppm
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	60	ppb
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	80	ppb
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	Total Organic Carbon	TT	ppm
<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>					
1,1 - Dichloropropene	Aldicarb	Chloroform	Metolachlor		
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Aldicarb Sulfone	Chlorodibromomethane	Metribuzin		
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Chloromethane	N - Butylbenzene		
1,1-Dichloroethane	Aldrin	Dibromomethane	Naphthalene		
1,2,3 - Trichlorobenzene	Bromobenzene	Dicamba	N-Propylbenzene		
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	Dichlorodifluoromethane	O-Chlorotoluene		
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	Bromodichloromethane	Dieldrin	P-Chlorotoluene		
1,3 - Dichloropropane	Bromofom	Hexachlorobutadiene	P-Isopropyltoluene		
1,3 - Dichloropropene	Bromomethane	Isopropylbenzene	Propachlor		
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	Butachlor	M-Dichlorobenzene	Sac - Butylbenzene		
2,2 - Dichloropropane	Carbaryl	Methomyl	Tert - Butylbenzene		
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Chloroethane	MTBE	Trichlorofluoromethane		
<b>SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Alkalinity, Total (CA, Co3)	Corrosivity	Magnesium	Sodium		
Aluminum	Foaming agents (MBAS)	Manganese	Sulfate		
Calcium, as Ca	Hardness	Odor	Total Dissolved Solids		
Chloride	Iron	Nickel	Zinc		
Color	Langelier Index	pH	Zinc		
Copper		Silver			