

**2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**East Lowndes Water Association**  
**PWS#: 440005 (AL0001809), 440080, 440081, 440100, 440103**  
**April 2024**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. 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.

#### **ABOUT OUR SYSTEM**

East Lowndes Water Association has more than 700 miles of distribution mains, serving more than 9,700 active connections. The system has a capacity to provide 7.6 million gallons per day (MGD), with an average daily usage of 1.9 MGD. This is accomplished within five treatment plants, two pump stations, nine underground wells and eight elevated storage tanks. System improvements over the past year include approximately 2,000 feet of main line extensions throughout the system, various infrastructure upgrades within the plants and distribution system, approximately 1,250 automated meter reading (AMR) meters upgraded, 56 new meter connections, and 6 new hydrants installed throughout the distribution system for fire protection and flushing purposes. A rate increase was instituted January 1, 2023 to aid in balancing budgeted expenses with inflation, as well as to prepare for long-term infrastructure planning of the system. Each improvement reflects the Board of Directors' and Management Team's commitment to provide quality water in the most efficient and cost-effective way. Another reflection of this commitment is that all Board Members have completed the Mississippi Rural Water Association Board Management Training Course, with the Board President and Vice President having completed Advanced Board Management Training.

#### **CONTACT & MEETING INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Brad Braddock at 662.328.1065. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the fourth Monday of every month except December at 6:30 PM at the East Lowndes Water Office located at 1325 Ridge Road, Columbus, MS 39705.

#### **SOURCE OF WATER**

Our water source is from ground water from nine (9) wells drawing from the Gordo and Massive Sands Aquifers. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for our system have received a lower to moderate rankings in terms of susceptibility to contamination. If needed on emergency basis our system can purchase water from Columbus Light & Water and the Caledonia Water Association.

#### **PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT**

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. This report is based on results of our monitoring period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2023, the table reflects the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

#### **TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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

*Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.*

*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 MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.*

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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.*

**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 to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter:** one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

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

**Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if Possible) why an *E.coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

<b>PWS ID # MS0440005 – AL0001809 Plant One – Lee Stokes Road- TEST RESULTS</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL/MRDL	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2022*	.0738	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2021/23	0	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2022*	.172	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2021/23	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
83. HAA5	N	2023	1.66	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
84. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2023	7.33	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
81. Chlorine	N	2023	1.2	.85 – 1.58	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Sodium	N	2022*	4.23	No Range	ppm	20	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

**PWS ID # 0440080 Plant Two - Huckleberry Lane - TEST RESULTS**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL/MRDL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2022*	.0648	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2019/21*	0	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2022*	.149	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2019/21*	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
81. Chlorine	N	2023	1.2	.81 – 1.93	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Sodium	N	2022*	11	4.21 - 11	ppm	20	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

**PWS ID # 0440081 Plant Three A – Old Yorkville Rd - TEST RESULTS**

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL/MRDL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2022*	.0929	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2019/21*	0	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2022*	.114	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2019/21*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
81. HAA5	N	2023	1.11	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
84. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2023	6.96	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
81. Chlorine	N	2023	1.2	.8 – 1.45	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Sodium	N	2022*	4.8	No Range	ppm	20	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

<b>PWS ID # 0440100 – Herman Vaughn Road - TEST RESULTS</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL/MRDL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2022*	.0071	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
16. Fluoride	N	2022*	1.79	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
83. HAA5	N	2023	2.37	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2023	4.87	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
81. Chlorine	N	2023	1.4	1 - 1.9	ppm	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Sodium	N	2022*	2.4	No Range	ppm	20	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

<b>PWS ID # 0440103 – Plant 3B West Old Yorkville Road - TEST RESULTS</b>								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL/MRDL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2022*	.101	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
16. Fluoride	N	2022*	.109	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2019/21*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
83. HAA5	N	2023	1.01	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
84. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2023	2.24	1.2 – 2.24	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
81. Chlorine	N	2023	1.2	.72 – 1.8	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Sodium	N	2022*	3.44	No Range	ppm	20	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

\*Most recent sample. No sample required for 2023.

\*\* Unregulated contaminants for which EPA requires monitoring.

\*\* Fluoride level is routinely adjusted to the MS State Dept of Health's recommended level of 0.6 – 1.2 mg/l.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

#### **LEAD INFORMATION**

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. Our water system 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>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

#### **FLUORIDE INFORMATION**

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", our system is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system.

##### **East Lowndes #1 – Lee Stokes Road**

The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 92%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 12.

##### **East Lowndes #2 – Huckleberry Lane**

The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 92%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 12.

##### **East Lowndes #3A – East Old Yorkville Road**

The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 100%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 12.

##### **East Lowndes #3B – West Old Yorkville Road**

The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 10. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 83%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 12.

##### **East Lowndes #4 – Herman Vaughn Road**

The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 100%. The number of months samples were collected and analyzed in the previous calendar year was 12.

Note: this system adds fluoride to your drinking water to help prevent and reduce cavities and improve overall oral health. Supply-chain issues have limited or prevented this water system's ability to obtain fluoride on a regular basis. The data presented above only reflects the months when this water system added fluoride to your drinking water.

#### **VIOLATIONS**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The East Lowndes Water Association, Inc. works 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. The Association has received the highest rating of 5.0 through the Mississippi State Department of Health's Capacity Assessment Program on all five systems. The Association now has the ability to notify its customers with an "Immediate Response Information System" for emergencies and critical information pertaining to its water supply. If you have not updated your contact information, please do so.