

2024 Annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

Ethel Rural Water Association

PWS ID # 0040003

Report Completed on May 21, 2025

We are pleased to present to you your 2024 Annual Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. In addition to the contaminants listed below in the chart, we tested for 2 additional organic chemicals for which the state and EPA have set standards. We found no detectable levels of those chemicals. 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. We routinely monitor contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31, 2024.

Water System Information

A source water assessment has been completed for the water supply to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water to identify potential sources of contamination. Our water supply received a lower susceptibility ranking to contamination. Our water source consists of 2 wells that draw from the Lower Wilcox Aquifer.

This past year we installed a new heater and fuel pump on the generator. We are in the process of building a new building and replacing electrical work. The tanks will be inspected in 2025. The water rates are \$19 for 2000 gallons (flat rate) and \$5 per 1000 gallons over the flat rate. The revenue is used for operating expenses and will fund the work that needs to be done in the future. The water is checked biweekly and sampled monthly to ensure quality drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Galen Shumaker at 662-674-5353. We want 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 2nd Friday of each month at Ethel Rural Water Association office at 9:00 am.

Definitions

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

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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 – 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 – 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.

ppb – parts per billion = micrograms per liter (=1 drop in 1 billion gallons)

ppm – parts per million = milligrams per liter (=1 drop in 1 million gallons)

Contaminant Table							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	MCLG	MCL	Major Source in Drinking Water
Inorganic Contaminants							
13.Barium	N	2022*	0.0316 ppm	No Range	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
20.Chromium	N	2022*	0.5 ppb	No Range	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
21.Copper	N	1/1/20 to 12/31/22*	0.4 ppm	None	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
24.Lead	N	1/1/20 to 12/31/22*	3.0 ppb	None	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2024	50800 ppb	No Range	20000	0	Road salt, water treatment chemicals, water softeners and sewage effluents
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products							
83.Chlorine	N	2024	1.00 ppm	0.50 to 1.20	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
84.Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N	2024	0.000 ppb	0.000 to 04.630	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
85.TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2024	0.013 ppb	2.230 to 13.000	n/a	100/80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

* Most recent sample results available

Health Effects

Sodium. EPA recommends that drinking water sodium not exceed 20 milligrams per liter. Excess sodium from salt in the diet increases the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

Significant Deficiencies:

- 1) During a sanitary survey conducted on 9/26/24, the MS State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Pump Station Condition. The system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 3/4/25 using a compliance plan or is with the initial 120 days minimum.
- 2) During a sanitary survey conducted on 9/26/24, the MS State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Function and Condition of Treatment Facilities. The system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 3/4/25 using a compliance plan or is with the initial 120 days minimum.
- 3) During a sanitary survey conducted on 9/26/24, the MS State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Inadequate Internal Cleaning/Maintenance of Storage Tanks. The system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 3/4/25 using a compliance plan or is with the initial 120 days minimum.

Lead Service Lines

Ethel Rural Water Association has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory and no lead lines were found. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspection and archived records.

Lead Educational Statement

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. Ethel Rural Water Association is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the

responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Galen Shumaker, Ethel Rural Water Association. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The MS Public Health Laboratory (MPHL) can provide information on lead and copper testing and/or other laboratories certified to analyze lead and copper in drinking water. MPHL can be reached at 601-576-7582 (Jackson, MS).

Additional Information

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

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

EPA is reviewing the drinking water standard for arsenic because of special concerns that it may not be stringent enough. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations.

The average household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day. There are many low cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- ▶ Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath.
- ▶ Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- ▶ Use a water-efficient showerhead. They are inexpensive, easy to install and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- ▶ Run your clothes wash and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- ▶ Water plants only when necessary.
- ▶ Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- ▶ Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- ▶ Teach your children about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- ▶ Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Please call our office if you have any questions.