

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
City of Marks
PWS#: 0600007
July 2026

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.

The City of Marks 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.

Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received the report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

Contact & Meeting Information

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Sandy Burke, City Clerk, at 662.326.3161. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend the meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM at 340 Pecan St, Marks, MS 38646.

Source of Water

Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identified 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 the City of Marks have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

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 1st to December 31st, 2025. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2025, 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.

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 addition to the contaminants listed in the table, we tested for additional chemicals for which the state and EPA have set standards. We found no detectable levels of those chemicals.

Violations

Our system received a monitoring violation during November 2025, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Chlorine contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. We were required to take 2 samples and took none. We have since taken the required sample that showed we are meeting drinking water standards.

Monitoring And Reporting Of Compliance Data Violations
Significant Deficiencies

During a sanitary survey conducted on 3/18/2025, the Mississippi State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s): Treatment is not being optimized. The finished iron was 0.6 ppm which is higher than our recommended 0.3 ppm. The Operator stated that the type of filter media is unknown, and its age is at least 10 years old. We recommend it be evaluated for its current effectiveness. At the time of inspection, KMnO4 addition had been discontinued. After the type of filter media is determined, whether or not KMnO4 should be added can be decided. The pH of the finished water was 7.1 which is corrosive. The target pH is 8.4. Only one aerator was in operation. The other aerator needs to be repaired as soon as possible. Both lime feeders were allowed to deteriorate to the point of both not being operable. At the time of the last inspection, the city was Caustic for pH adjustment but was not adding that at the time of this inspection. A chemical to adjust the pH should be chosen and the feed rate should be set to maintain the pH at approximately 8.4. This will prolong the useful life of pumps, tanks, the distribution system and the customers' plumbing. There is no sample faucet on either of the aerators. We recommend a faucet be installed so that the aerator's effectiveness can be determined.

The system is scheduled to complete corrective actions by 10/3/2025 updated to 1/06/2026 using a compliance plan or are within the initial 120 days minimum. Our system has failed to meet the compliance deadline and enforcement action is pending.

Lead Educational Statement

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and your 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 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 our water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Our system has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspections, water operator knowledge and archived records. This inventory report is available for viewing at our office upon request.

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.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants – Salts and metals which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater runoff. Industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.								
10. Barium	N	2025	.0452	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2025	4.7	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2023/25	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride	N	2025	.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	2023/25	3	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2023*	82.4	No Range	ppm	20		Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
Disinfection By-Products – Substances formed when disinfectants, like Chlorine, used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring materials in the water.								
Chlorine	Y	2025	1- RAA	.4 – 1.1	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2025.

Disinfection By-Products:

Chlorine. Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

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

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 (ug/L): 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.

RAA: Running Annual Average