

**Columbiana Water Board**  
**50 Water Works St. Columbiana, Alabama 35051**  
**PWSID: AL0001151**

## **2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

### **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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 that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 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 (800-426-4791). 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.

### **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.

### **Important Information About Lead:**

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. Columbiana Water Board 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>.

### **Notes:**

**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 (1-800-426-4791).**

\* Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

\*\*Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

## Table of Primary Contaminants

At high levels, primary contaminants are known to pose health risks to humans. This table includes results of all primary contaminant monitoring

CONTAMINANT	MCL	Amount Detected	CONTAMINANT	MCL	Amount Detected
<b>Bacteriological</b>			Endothall	100 ppb	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	ND	Endrin	2 ppb	ND
Turbidity	TT	0.35	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
<b>Radiological</b>			Glyphosate	700 ppb	ND
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	2	Heptachlor	400 ppt	ND
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	200 ppt	ND
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0.8	Hexachlorobenzene	1 ppb	ND
<b>Inorganic</b>			Lindane	200 ppt	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6 ppb	ND	Methoxychlor	40 ppb	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10 ppb	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200 ppb	ND
Barium (ppm)	2 ppm	0.45	PCBs	500 ppt	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4 ppb	ND	Pentachlorophenol	1 ppb	ND
Cadmium	5 ppb	ND	Picloram	500 ppb	ND
Chromium	100 ppb	0.009	Simazine	4 ppb	ND
<b>Copper*</b>	AL = 1.3 ppm	0.09	Toxaphene	3 ppb	ND
Cyanide	200 ppb	ND	Benzene	5 ppb	ND
Fluoride	4 ppm	ND	Carbon Tetrachloride	5 ppb	ND
<b>Lead (ppb)*</b>	AL = 15	ND	Chlorobenzene	100 ppb	ND
Mercury	2 ppb	ND	Dibromochloropropane	200 ppt	ND
Nitrate	10 ppm	0.29	o-Dichlorobenzene	600 ppb	ND
Nitrite	1 ppm	ND	p-Dichlorobenzene	75 ppb	ND
Selenium	50 ppb	ND	1,2-Dichloroethane	5 ppb	ND
Thallium	2 ppb	ND	1,1-Dichloroethylene	7 ppb	ND
<b>* 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the most recent sampling event.</b>			Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70 ppb	ND
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100 ppb	ND
2,4-D	70 ppb	ND	Dichloromethane	5 ppb	ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50 ppb	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane	5 ppb	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	Ethylbenzene	700 ppb	ND
Alachlor	2 ppb	ND	Ethylene dibromide	50 ppt	ND
Atrazine	3 ppb	ND	Styrene	100 ppb	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PAHs]	200 ppt	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	5 ppb	ND
Carbofuran	40 ppb	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	70 ppb	ND
Chlordane	2 ppb	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200 ppb	ND
Dalapon	200 ppb	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5 ppb	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400 ppb	ND	Trichloroethylene	5 ppb	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates	6 ppb	ND	TTHM	80 ppb	20.8
Dinoseb	7 ppb	ND	Toluene	1 ppm	ND
Diquat	20 ppb	ND	Vinyl Chloride	2 ppb	ND
Chloramines	4 ppm	ND	Xylenes	10 ppm	ND
Chlorite	1 ppm	ND	TOC	TT	2
HAA5(ppb)	60 ppb	8	Chlorine	4 ppm	1.96
<b>Unregulated Contaminants Table</b>					
CONTAMINANT	Low Result, PPM	High Result, PPM	CONTAMINANT, PPM	Low Result, PPM	High Result, PPM
1,1 - Dichloropropene	ND	ND	Chloroform	ND	0.0134
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	ND	Chloromethane	ND	ND
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	ND	0.0006	Dibromochloromethane	ND	0.0050
1,1-Dichloroethane	ND	ND	Dibromomethane	ND	ND
1,2,3 - Trichlorobenzene	ND	0.0009	Dicamba	ND	ND
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	ND	ND	Dichlorodifluoromethane	ND	ND
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	ND	ND	Dieldrin	ND	ND
1,3 - Dichloropropane	ND	ND	Hexachlorobutadiene	ND	ND
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	ND	ND	p-Isopropylbenzene	ND	ND
2,2 - Dichloropropane	ND	ND	M-Dichlorobenzene	ND	ND
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	ND	ND	Methomyl	ND	ND
Aldicarb	ND	ND	MTBE	ND	ND
Aldicarb Sulfone	ND	ND	Metolachlor	ND	ND
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	ND	ND	Metribuzin	ND	ND
Aldrin	ND	ND	N - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
Bromobenzene	ND	ND	Naphthalene	ND	ND
Bromochloromethane	ND	ND	N-Propylbenzene	ND	ND
Bromodichloromethane	ND	0.0050	O-Chlorotoluene	ND	ND
Bromoform	ND	ND	P-Chlorotoluene	ND	ND
Bromomethane	ND	ND	P-Isopropyltoluene	ND	ND
Butachlor	ND	ND	Propachlor	ND	ND
Carbaryl	ND	ND	Sec - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
Chloroethane	ND	ND	Tert - Butylbenzene	ND	ND
			Trichlorofluoromethane	ND	ND

## Table of Detected Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range Detected		Average Amount Detected		Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Bacteriological</b>							
Turbidity	N/A	TT	0.10	-	0.35	0.23	TT Soil Runoff
<b>Radiologicals</b>							
			min		max		
Combined Radium	0	5	ND	-	0.8	0.4	PCI/L Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha Emitters	0	15	ND	-	2	1	PCI/L Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>							
			min		max		
Barium	2	2	0.43	-	0.45	0.44	ppm Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge of metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	100	100	0.001	-	0.009	0.005	ppb Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	0.25	-	0.29	0.27	ppm Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3	0.04	-	0.11	0.03	ppb Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>							
			min		max		
THM ++	0	80	ND	-	20.8	10.4	ppb By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine		4	0.49	-	1.96	1.23	ppm Drinking water additive for bacterial disinfection
HAA	0	60	ND	-	8	4	ppb By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	TT	TT	0.1	-	2	1.05	ppm Runoff from industrial, urban and natural soils; Decomposition of plant material in surface water

## Secondary Drinking Water Standards Table

Parameters (mg/L)	MCLG	MCL	Low Result	High Result	Parameters (mg/L)	MCLG	MCL	Low Result	High Result
pH	7	Monitored	7.5	7.8	Aluminum	0	0.2	ND	ND
Color, APHA (units)	N/A	15	ND	ND	Copper	N/A	1	0.006	0.015
Odor	N/A	3	ND	ND	Iron	0	0.3	ND	ND
Foaming Agents	N/A	0.5	ND	ND	Manganese	0	0.05	ND	ND
TDS	0	500	120	140	Silver	0	0.1	ND	ND
Fluoride	N/A	2.0	ND	ND	Zinc	0	5	ND	ND
Sulfate	0	250	0.69	1.39	Total Hardness	0	Monitored	138	147
Chloride	N/A	250	2.46	4.11	Corrosivity	N/A	N/A	Corrosive	Non Corrosive

### Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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 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 Goal or 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

**Action Level (or AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirement, a water system shall follow.

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

**NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of clarity.

**ND:** Not detectable at testing limits.

**PPB (or parts per billion):** micrograms per liter (ug/l). One part per billion corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**PPM (or parts per million):** milligrams per liter (mg/l). One part per million corresponds to a single penny in \$10,000.

**pCi/L (or picocuries per liter):** a measure of radioactivity.

**FDA:** Food and Drug Administration.

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ADEM:** Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

**Columbiana Water Board**  
**PWSID: AL0001151**  
**205-669-5805**

**What's the Quality of My Water?**

The Columbiana Water Board provides clean water to your community and helps to keep you and your family healthy. We take this mission very seriously. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of Alabama require all water suppliers to prepare reports like this one. This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2012.

The Columbiana Water Board is again pleased to report that our drinking water met or exceeded all Federal and State water quality standards for 2012. Our ongoing goal is to provide you with ample quantities of safe and dependable drinking water. During 2012 we experienced no violations.

Our water source is groundwater pumped from five wells. We treat your water with chlorination for disinfection.

At the Columbiana Water Board, we work 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 feel free to visit us during our working hours or call if you have questions regarding the contents of this report.

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality or our monitoring, please contact Lewis Green, Water Superintendent, at (205) 669-5805 or attend any of the regularly scheduled Board meetings. These meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at 50 Water Works St. Columbiana, AL 35051

**Columbiana Water Board:**

**John Farr, Jr., Chairman**

**Tyrus Sockwell, Jr., Co-Chairman**

**Tom Seale, Secretary Treasurer**

**Employees:**

**Lewis Green, Water Superintendent**

The Columbiana Water Board has completed a Source Water Assessment (SWA). The SWA is designed to tell us certain information about our source water so that we as a water service and you as a water consumer can better preserve and protect our source water. For more information on the SWA, please contact Lewis Green at (205) 669-5805.