Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Utilities Board of the City of Bayou La Batre

January-December 2021

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. Bayou La Batre has two well sources pumping out of the Miocene-Pliocene Aquifer located in the Irvington area. The water we provide to our customers requires no specialized treatment. However**, chlorine is added** for disinfection purposes. **Aqua Gold is added** for corrosion control and ph balance. Bayou La Batre has **completed the Source Water Protection Plan** that may be viewed at The Utilities Board Office during normal business hours. It provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. I'm pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We also have two emergency connections with Grand Bay Water Works Board and St. Elmo-Irvington Water Authority.

If you have questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please **contact our office at 251-824-2172.** We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled **meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at the office located on 13321 N. Wintzell Avenue, 5:30 PM.**

BOARD MEMBERS

Sylvia Raley, Chairperson **Roger Milne** **Jeffery Ladnier**

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PLAIN LANGUAGE DEFINITION

- *Non-Detects (**ND**)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- *Not Required* (**NR**) – Laboratory analysis not required due to waiver granted by the Environmental Protection Agency for the State of Alabama.
- *Parts per million (**ppm**) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- *Parts per billion (**ppb**) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- *Parts per trillion (**ppt**) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.
- *Parts per quadrillion (**ppq**) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)* - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000,000,000.
- *Picocuries per liter (**pCi/L**)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- *Millirems per year (**mrem/yr**)* - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (**NTU**)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- *Variances & Exemptions (**V&E**)* - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- *Action Level – (AL)* the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- *Treatment Technique (**TT**)* - (mandatory language) A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Threshold Odor Number (T.O.N.)- The greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that still yields a just-detectable odor.
- *Maximum Contaminant Level* - (mandatory language) 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* - (mandatory language) 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 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.

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 run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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 run-off, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants,* which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Bayou La Batre routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2021**.** 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.

Table of Primary Contaminants

At high levels some primary contaminants are known to pose a health risks to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
Bacteriological			Selenium(ppb)	50	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	ND	Thallium(ppb)	2	ND	Ethylbenzene(ppb)	700	0.03
Turbidity	TT	0.44	**Organic Chemicals**			Ethylene dibromide(ppt)	50	ND
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	0	ND	Acrylamide	TT	ND	Glyphosate(ppb)	700	95.60
Radiological			Alachlor(ppb)	2	ND	Haloacetic Acids(ppb)	60	2.40
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Atrazine(ppb)	3	ND	Heptachlor(ppt)	400	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	.950+1.36	Benzene(ppb)	5	0.03	Heptachlor epoxide(ppt)	200	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	.594+.396	Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs](ppt)	200	ND	Hexachlorobenzene(ppb)	1	ND
Uranium(pci/l)	30	ND	Carbofuran(ppb)	40	0.03	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene(ppb)	50	ND
Inorganic			Carbon Tetrachloride(ppb)	5	0.03	Lindane(ppt)	200	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Chlordane(ppb)	2	ND	Methoxychlor(ppb)	40	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0.00	Chlorobenzene(ppb)	100	0.03	Oxamyl [Vydate](ppb)	200	0.03
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	2,4-D	70	ND	Pentachlorophenol(ppb)	1	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	0.05	Dalapon(ppb)	200	ND	Picloram(ppb)	500	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Dibromochloropropane(ppt)	200	0.03	PCBs(ppt)	500	ND
Bromate(ppb)	10	ND	0-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	600	0.03	Simazine(ppb)	4	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	p-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	75	ND	Styrene(ppb)	100	0.02
Chloramines(ppm)	4	ND	1,2-Dichloroethane(ppb)	5	0.02	Tetrachloroethylene(ppb)	5	0.03
Chlorine(ppm)	4	3.36	1,1-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	7	0.03	Toluene(ppm)	1	0.03
Chlorine dioxide(ppb)	800	ND	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	70	ND	TOC	TT	ND
Chlorite(ppm)	1	ND	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	100	ND	TTHM(ppb)	80	5.90
Chromium (ppb)	100	ND	Dichloromethane(ppb)	5	0.03	Toxaphene(ppb)	3	ND
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	0.22	1,2-Dichloropropane(ppb)	5	0.03	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)(ppb)	50	ND
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND	Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate(ppb)	400	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene(ppb)	70	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.11	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthlates(ppb)	6	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane(ppb)	200	0.03
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	1.70	Dinoseb(ppb)	7	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane(ppb)	5	0.03
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD](ppq)	30	ND	Trichloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.05	Diquat(ppb)	20	0.01	Vinyl Chloride(ppb)	2	0.03
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	Endothall(ppb)	100	ND	Xylenes(ppm)	10	0.06
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	0.05	Endrin(ppb)	2	ND			

Table of Secondary and Unregulated Contaminants

Secondary Drinking Water Standards are guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. ADEM has Secondary Drinking Water Standards established in state regulations applicable to water systems required to monitor for the various components. **Unregulated contaminants** are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurance of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	DETECT	CONTAMINANT	MCL	DETECT	CONTAMINANT	MCL	DETECT
Secondary								
Aluminum	0.2	0.02	Foaming Agents	0.5	ND	Silver	7	0.000061
Chloride	250	25.00	Iron	0.3	0.76	Sulfate	70	7.3
Color (PCU)	15	5.00	Magnesium	75	1.00	Total Dissolved Solids	500	150
Copper	1	ND	Odor (T.O.N.)	3	ND	Zinc	5	0.0093
Special								
Calcium	N/A	11.90	pH (SU)	N/A	7.28	Temperature (*C)	N/A	22.30
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	2.81	Sodium	N/A	26.20	Total Alkalinity	N/A	54.9
Manganese	0.05	0.02	Specific Conductance (umhos)	<500	190.00	Total Hardness (as CaCO3)	N/A	34
Unregulated								
1,1 - Dichloropropene	N/A	0.02	Bromobenzene	N/A	0.01	Hexachlorobutadiene	N/A	ND
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	N/A	0.01	Bromochloromethane	N/A	0.01	Isoprpylbenzene	N/A	0.02455
1,1-Dichloroethane	N/A	0.02	Bromodichloromethane	N/A	0.0011	M-Dichlorobenzene	N/A	ND
1,2,3 - Trichlorobenzene	N/A	ND	Bromoform	N/A	ND	Methomyl	N/A	ND
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	N/A	0.01	Bromomethane	N/A	0.00	Metolachlor	N/A	ND
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	N/A	0.01	Butachlor	N/A	ND	Metribuzin	N/A	ND
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	N/A	0.01	Carbaryl	N/A	0.01	MTBE	N/A	0.02845
1,3 - Dichloropropane	N/A	0.01	Chloroethane	N/A	0.01	N - Butylbenzene	N/A	ND
1,3 - Dichloropropene	N/A	ND	Chlorodibromomethane	N/A	ND	Naphthalene	N/A	0.0258
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	N/A	0.01	Chloroform	N/A	0.0019	N-Propylbenzene	N/A	0.015
2,2 - Dichloropropane	N/A	ND	Chloromethane	N/A	ND	O-Chlorotoluene	N/A	ND
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	N/A	ND	Dibromochloromethane	N/A	ND	P-Chlorotoluene	N/A	ND
Aldicarb	N/A	0.05	Dibromomethane	N/A	0.02	P-Isopropyltoluene	N/A	ND
Aldicarb Sulfone	N/A	ND	Dichlorodifluoromethane	N/A	0.01	Propachlor	N/A	0.000072
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	N/A	ND	Dieldrin	N/A	0.00	Sec - Butylbenzene	N/A	ND
Aldrin	N/A	0.00	Fluorotrichloromethan	N/A	0.02	Tert - Butylbenzene	N/A	ND
PFAS Compounds								
CONTAMINANT	**RESULTS**	**UNITS**	**CONTAMINANT**	**RESULTS**	**UNITS**	**CONTAMINANT**	**RESULTS**	**UNITS**
11Cl-PF3OUdS	ND	ug/L	Perfluorodecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
9Cl-PF3ONS	ND	ug/L	Perfluorohexanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
ADONA	Cu	ug/L	Perfluorododecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorotridecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
HFPO-DA	ND	ug/L	Perfluoroheptanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluoroundecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
NEtFOSAA	ND	ug/L	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L	Total PFAs	ND	ug/L
NMeFOSAA	ND	ug/L	Perfluorononanoic Acid	ND	ug/L			ug/L
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L			ug/L

Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants								
CONTAMINANT	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Range**			**Amount Detected**		**Likely Source of Contamination**
Bacteriological Contaminants						**January - December 2021**		
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	< 5%				ND	Present or Absent	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	0	TT				0.44	NTU	Soil runoff
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	0	0				ND	Present or Absent	Human and animal fecal waste
Viruses, Giardia	0	TT				0	Present or Absent	Human and animal fecal waste
Legionella	0	TT				0	Present or Absent	Found naturally in water, multiplies in heating systems
Radiological Contaminants						**January - December 2021**		
Beta particle and photon	0	4				ND	mrem/yr	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters	0	15				.950+1.36	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228	0	5				.594+.396	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	0	30				ND	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants						**January - December 2019-2021**		
Barium	2	2	ND	-	0.05	0.05	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.40	-	3.36	3.36	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper	1.3	10 Sites AL=1.3	No. of Sites above action level 0			0.22	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4	ND	-	0.11	0.11	ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	0	10 Sites AL=15	No. of Sites above action level 0			1.70	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as N)	10	10	ND	-	0.05	0.05	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	10	ND	-	0.05	0.05	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Organic Contaminants						**January - December 2021**		
Benzene	0	5	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbofuran	40	40	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfâ
Carbon Tetrachloride	0	5	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene	100	100	0.02	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane	0	200	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	ppt	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
0-Dichlorobenzene	600	600	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloroethane	0	5	0.03	-	0.02	0.02	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	7	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane	0	5	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane	0	5	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Diquat	20	20	0.01	-	0.01	0.01	ppb	Runoff/leaching from herbicide use
Ethylbenzene	700	700	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Glyphosate	700	700	0.04	-	95.60	95.60	ppb	Runoff/leaching from herbicide use
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0	60	1.30	-	2.40	2.40	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	200	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes, and tomatoes
Styrene	100	100	ND	-	0.02	0.02	ppb	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene	0	5	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene	1	1	0.00	-	0.03	0.03	ppm	Discharge from petroleum factories
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0	80	3.60	-	5.90	5.90	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	200	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	3	5	0.02	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Vinyl Chloride	0	2	ND	-	0.03	0.03	ppb	Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylene (total)	10	10	0.00	-	0.06	0.06	ppm	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

Secondary Contaminants						**January - December 2021**		
Aluminum	N/A	0.2	ND	-	0.02	0.02	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives
Chloride	N/A	250	ND	-	25.00	25.00	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Color	N/A	15	ND	-	5.00	5.00	PCU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Iron	N/A	0.3	ND	-	0.76	0.76	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	N/A	0.05	ND	-	1.00	1.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Silver	N/A	0.1	ND	-	0.00	0.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	N/A	250	ND	-	7.30	7.30	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Dissolved Solids	N/A	500	ND	-	150.00	150.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	N/A	5	ND	-	0.01	0.01	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Contaminants						**January - December 2020**		
Calcium	N/A	N/A	ND	-	11.90	11.90	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	N/A	ND	-	2.81	2.81	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.02	0.02	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	N/A	N/A	ND	-	7.28	7.28	SU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	N/A	N/A	ND	-	26.20	26.20	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Specific Conductance	N/A	<500	ND	-	190.00	190.00	umhos	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Temperature	N/A	N/A	ND	-	22.30	22.30	◦C	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Alkalinity	N/A	N/A	ND	-	54.90	54.90	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness (as CaC	N/A	N/A	ND	-	34.00	34.00	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Unregulated Contaminants						**January - December 2021**		
1,1 - Dichloropropene	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.02	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticide use
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethan	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Intermediate used in the production of other chemicals
1,1-Dichloroethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.02	ppm	Intermediate used in the production of other chemicals
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Intermediate used in the production of other chemicals
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Residual of petroleum additive
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppb	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,3 - Dichloropropane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.01	0.01	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticides or petroleum products
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.02	0.01	ppm	Used in photographic development and solvents
Aldicarb	N/A	N/A	0.04	-	0.06	0.05	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticide use
Aldrin	N/A	N/A	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticide use
Bromobenzene	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Bromochloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Residual of banned fire extinguisher additive
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.0776	0.0388	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Bromoform	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.04	0.03	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Bromomethane	N/A	N/A	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	ppm	Residual of banned fire extinguisher additive
Butachlor	N/A	N/A	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Runoff/leaching from herbicide use
Carbaryl	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticide use
Chloroethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppm	Residual of petroleum additive
Chloroform	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.0756	0.0502	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.07	0.04	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Dibromomethane	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.02	0.02	ppm	Runoff/leaching from herbicide use
Dichlorodifluoromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	0.03	0.01	ppb	Residual of banned refrigerant
Dieldrin	N/A	N/A	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	ppm	Runoff/leaching from insecticide use
Fluorotrichloromethane	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.03	0.02	ppm	Refrigerant residual
Isopropylbenzene	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.02	0.02	ppm	Petroleum by-product
MTBE	N/A	N/A	0.03	-	0.03	0.03	ppm	Petroleum by-product
Naphthalene	N/A	N/A	0.02	-	0.03	0.03	ppm	Fumigant used in mothballs
N-Propylbenzene	N/A	N/A	0.00	-	0.03	0.02	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment

GENERAL INFORMATION

As you can see by the tables, our system had no monitoring violations of allowable limits of contaminants in drinking water. 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. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised, such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or individuals with other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. Those at risk should seek advice about drinking water from the health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Crytosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

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. Bayou La Batre 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

Based on a study conducted by the 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.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two 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.

We at The Utilities Board of The City of Bayou La Batre work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints and waste oil. 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.