

## DEDICATED TO QUALITY SERVICE

The Utilities Board of Rainbow City (UBRC) is pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This publication is our commitment to keep you, our customer, informed on issues related to water service. This report provides information concerning the source of your drinking water, treatment techniques, test results, as well as an explanation of the numbers and terms used in it. UBRC works diligently to provide high quality water at the lowest possible price. We are committed to providing a quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns regarding your water service, please contact General Manager, Brian Purcell at (256) 442-2553 or by email at [bpurcell@rbcwater.net](mailto:bpurcell@rbcwater.net).

### The Utilities Board of Rainbow City

1540 Sutton Bridge Road, Rainbow City, AL 35906  
Phone: (256) 442-2553

### Board Members:

Nicholas C. Hall, Chairman  
Andy C Dennis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Anita Bedwell, Member  
J. Keith Raines, Member  
John Edward Silvey, Member

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

You are invited to participate in our public meeting and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The board meets the first and third Monday of each month at our Business Office, located at 1540 Sutton Bridge Road, Rainbow City. Board meetings start at 4:00 p.m.

## QUESTIONS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORT, OR ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO YOUR DRINKING WATER, PLEASE CALL OUR BUSINESS OFFICE AT 256-442-2553.

## SUBSTANCES IN DRINKING WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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. 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 materials, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## • THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP

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- Rainbow City code requires that all customers have a check valve on their water service line to prevent the water in your system from running back into the public system. The International Plumbing Code also requires each dwelling or business to have a customer-owned water isolation valve.
- The International Plumbing Code requires the installation of a thermal expansion protection (TEP) device on the customers hot water tank when a check valve is installed at the meter. The temperature and pressure valve on the hot water tank can fail resulting in plumbing damage if no TEP device is installed.
- Rainbow City code requires that all customers connected to the sanitary sewer system have a backup valve or backflow preventer on their sewer service lateral to prevent sewage from backing up into their establishment in the event of a main line surcharge or blockage. The Utilities Board of Rainbow City assumes no liability for any damages which may occur due to the absence or malfunction of this valve.
- Protect your pipes; Don't pour Fats, Oils Grease, or flush wipes down the drain; these products can cause clogs, which lead to environmental impacts and/or property damage.

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

In September, 2016, we began purchasing our water from Odenville Utilities Board. The Odenville Utilities Board obtains our water from groundwater sources consisting of eight (8) wells. These wells draw water from four (4) primary aquifers contained within the underground rock formations such as Tusculumbia Limestone/Fort Payne Chert (Well #3), Hartselle Sandstone (Well # 7), Floyd Shale and Bangor Limestone (Wells # 4, 5, 8, & 9). Wells #10 & 11 are developed in the Know Group in the Valley and Ridge Province in Alabama. Wells #10 & 11 are the primary sources for the Northeastern portion of the system including Rainbow City.

On November 30, 2011, the Odenville Utilities Board began purchasing a portion of our water supply from the Coosa Valley Water Supply District. The Odenville System has the capacity to produce 8.5 million gallons per day of groundwater and has access to purchase up to an additional 2.5 million gallons per day. Additional information regarding these sources is available at the Odenville Utilities Board Office located at 14292 US Highway 411, Odenville, AL 35120.

## LEAD IN HOME PLUMBING

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 thirty (30) seconds to two (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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## RAINBOW CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Utility Board of Rainbow City is operating a 2 - 4 million gallon a day Aqua Aerobics Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment facility. Our wastewater treatment facility, along with our Business Office is located at 1540 Sutton Bridge Road. The wastewater treatment facility allows us the capacity to meet the discharge requirements set forth by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## THE UTILITIES BOARD OF RAINBOW CITY SUPPORTS EDUCATIONS

We all agree that one of the most important things in the lives of our children is education; however, funding is not always available to meet many of the needs facing our schools.

In an effort to help our children, with educational needs, the Utilities Board of Rainbow City has adopted a plan to help our local schools. All of our customers are allowed to participate in this program by donating \$.25 a month (\$3.00 per year). Participating customers find this \$.25 on their water bill each month, and contributions are disbursed annually to the schools in Rainbow City. Each school was awarded \$3,214.92 in the fiscal year 2023.

This is a volunteer program, and customers may opt out at any time. An itemized statement is proof of a tax-exempt donation.

If you see a leak, please report it as soon as possible. We need our customers to be our eyes in the community.

## SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 transplants recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU DIG

Contact Alabama 811 before you dig. Per Alabama law, everyone must contact Alabama 811 at least two full working days, not counting the day of notification, before the start of any excavation project, no matter how large or small. If you are unsure, it is always better to contact 811 to have facilities marked. Contacting 811 is a free service. Most water and sewer lines are marked along the right of way. Any lines from the meter to your residence are considered to be private and property of the homeowner. To contact Alabama 811, simply dial 811 from anywhere in Alabama or go online to submit your locate request at [www.al811.com](http://www.al811.com).

## HOW CAN YOU PAY YOUR BILL

We have several options available for our customers. Payments may be made by cash, check, money order or credit/debit card.

1. In person, at our Business Office located at 1540 Sutton Bridge Road
2. Mail: P O Box 680, Gadsden, AL 35902
3. Drop box located in the front side of our office building.
4. Automatic bank draft
5. Automatic Credit/Debit card
6. Online at [www.rbcwater.net](http://www.rbcwater.net). Please do not use Doxo.com



Presented By:

The Utilities Board  
of Rainbow City  
PWS ID #000588



## SAMPLING RESULTS

During the past year, hundreds of water samples have been taken to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

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.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES		Odenville Water Board				
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4 ppm	1.2 - 2.38	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2 ppm	0.072 - 0.086	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	2023	10	10 ppm	0.28 - 0.29	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	2023	0	0	0 - 0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2023	N/A	TT	0.2 - 0.2	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2023	N/A	TT	0.08 - 0.31	No	Soil runoff
Copper	2023	1.3	AL-1.3 ppm	0.003 - 0.022	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2023	0	AL-15 ppb	ND - 1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	2023	50 ppb	50 ppb	ND - 1	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY SUBSTANCES						
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCLG	MCL	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Chloride (ppm)	2023	N/A	250	2.34 - 3.01	No	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
pH (s.u.)	2023	7	Monitored	6.93 - 7.64	No	Naturally present in the environment
Hardness (ppm)	2023	0	Monitored	103 - 118	No	Naturally present in the environment
Iron (ppb)	2023	0	0.3	ND - ND	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Sulfate (ppm)	2023	0	250	1.01 - 1.11	No	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2023	0	500	160 - 184	No	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2023	0	5	0.1 - 0.3	No	Run-off/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Copper	2023	N/A	1	0.003-0.010	No	Naturally present in the environment

REGULATED SUBSTANCES BY THE UTILITIES BOARD OF RAINBOW CITY PWSID - AL0000588 Report for the Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts Rule							
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Violation	Typical Source
Halooacetic Acid (HAAs) (ppb)	2023	60	NA	2*	0 - 9.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (ppb)	2023	80	NA	2.2*	0 - 9.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
(Total Trihalomethanes)							disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria	2023	0	0	0	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Substance (Units)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %tile)	Homes above Action Level	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.085	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	<.005	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

\*Highest LRAA

Water Systems are selected by The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to participate in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR) program to collect nationally representative data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water. These contaminants do not have regulatory standards. The monitoring period is between 2018 – 2020. This monitoring is used by the EPA to understand the frequency and level of occurrence of unregulated contaminants in the nation's public water systems. Every five years the EPA develops a new list of UCMR contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). The detection of UCMR contaminant does not represent cause for concern, in and of itself.

As required by Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Odenville Utility Board completed additional testing for PFAS in 2022. These results are provided in the table below.

Table of Detected UCMR 5 Contaminants & PFAS				
Contaminant	Minimum Reporting Level (MRL/ug/L)	Reference Concentration (ug/L)	Range Detected	Additional Information
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	NA	NA	ND - ND	Final Health Advisory Limit for PFBS is 2.0 ug/L
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	NA	NA	ND - ND	Interim Health Advisory Limit for PFOS is 0.00002 ug/L
Perfluorooctanoic Acid	NA	NA	ND - ND	Interim Health Advisory Limit for PFOA is 0.000004 ug/L

Note: EPA has introduced interim health advisory limits for PFOA and PFOS. The interim health advisory limit for PFOS is 0.00002 ug/L. The interim health advisory for PFOA is 0.000004 ug/L. The new health advisory limits are lower than the amount which can be detected with current laboratory technology.

## DEFINITIONS

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

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

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The level of drinking water disinfectant allowed in

drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**N/A:** Not applicable

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per

million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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

**UMHOS:** The unit of measurement for conductivity is expressed in either microSiemens (uS/cm) or micromhos (umho/cm) which is the reciprocal of the unit of resistance, the ohm. The prefix "micro" means that it is measured in millionths of a mho. MicroSiemens and micromhos are equivalent units.

**LRAA:** Locational Running Average, the arithmetic average of analytical results for samples taken at a specific monitoring location during the previous four (4) calendar quarters