

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Monitoring Performed January – December 2024

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS UTILITY AUTHORITY

5811 Jack Springs Road

Atmore, AL 36502

(251) 446-1617

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report). The purpose of this report is to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Customers: | Approximately 300 | Storage Capacity: | Three storage tanks with a total capacity of 1.45 million gallons |
| Water Treatment: | Chlorination, UV disinfectant, fluoridation and pH adjustment | | |
| Water Sources: | Two groundwater wells producing from the Miocene formation | | |
| Interconnections: | West Escambia Utilities | | |

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority has developed a Source Water Assessment plan that will assist in protecting our water sources. The assessment has been performed, public notification has been completed, and the plan has been approved by ADEM. All the potential contaminants sited in our study area were ranked as medium and low in the susceptibility analysis. A copy of the report is available in our office for review during regular business hours, or you may purchase a copy upon request for a nominal reproduction fee.

We use utilize a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan. The required chlorine residual is maintained throughout our distribution system to protect your drinking water from possible outside contaminants. We have also established a Cross-Connection Policy to insure safe drinking water for our customers.

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 help us make this effort worthwhile by protecting our source water. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints, and waste oil.
- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides - they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Josh Thomas at (251) 446-1617.

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 held on the third Thursday of each month at 263 Alpin Road, Atmore Alabama.

MONITORING SCHEDULE

Our water sources are routinely monitored for contaminants, according to a schedule determined by Federal and State regulations. Every water system has individually assigned monitoring requirements. ADEM allows monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The following table shows the most recent year and the next monitoring requirement for the contaminant groups.

| Constituent Monitored | Date Monitored / Next Monitoring |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Inorganic Contaminants | 2023 / 2026 |
| Lead/Copper | 2024 / 2027 |
| Microbiological Contaminants | Monthly |
| Nitrates | Annually |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 2021 / 2027 |
| Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides and herbicides) | 2024 & 2025 / 2027 |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | 2024 / 2027 |
| Disinfection By-products | Annually |

VARIANCES & EXEMPTIONS

ADEM or the EPA can give permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

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 were not required.

Board Members:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris McGhee | President |
| Ron Marshall | Vice President |
| Wendy Davis | Secretary / Treasurer |
| Larry Bailey, Sr. | Member |
| Linda Brooks | Member |
| Lathaniel McGhee | Member |
| Ronald Rolin | Member |
| Dewitt Carter | Tribal Council |
| Charlotte Meckel | Tribal Council |

Staff:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Joshua Thomas | Utilities Executive Director |
| James Ramer | Maintenance Supervisor |
| Rebecca Black | Customer Service Supervisor |
| Shaun Livermore | Operations Manager |
| Nathaniel Dortch | Maintenance Foreman |
| Tyler Jackson | Operator 1 |
| Kimberly Weatherford | Office Coordinator |
| Larry Bailey, Jr. | Chief Operator |
| Trenton McGhee | Operator Supervisor |
| Bo Slate | Maintenance Technician |
| Trent Flowers | Maintenance Technician |
| Jerry Walker | Utilities Assistant |
| Blake Cunningham | Utilities Assistant |
| Josh Hammac | Utilities Assistant |
| Anthony Ramer | Utilities Service Technician |
| Chris Rolin | Utilities Service Technician |

LEAD & COPPER MONITORING

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority completed monitoring requirements for lead and copper in 2024. Twenty sites were sampled without exceeding the Action Level Limits for Lead or Copper. The system will continue to monitor for lead and copper every three years. The next monitoring period for the system will be the period of June – September 2027. The monitoring results in 2024 were as follows:

| LEAD & COPPER (TAP WATER) | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | AL (Action Level) | MCLG (What's the Goal?) | Date Sampled (mo/yr) | 90th Percentile Result | Range Low - High (MD) | No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL | Major Sources |
| Lead (ppb) | 15 | 0 | September 2024 | 2.7 | ND - 4.6 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper (ppm) | 1.3 | 1.3 | | 0.582 | 0.021 - 1.66 | 0 | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |

As required by ADEM, we conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory during 2024. Our findings were:

| SERVICE LINE INVENTORY SUMMARY | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------|
| TOTAL SERVICE LINES | | | 310 |
| Lead | Galvanized | Non-Lead | Lead Status Unknown |
| 0 | 0 | 310 | 0 |

Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings and fixtures may cause metals, including lead and copper, to enter drinking water. We maintain a treatment technique that ensures the water to be neutral or scaling. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, tap sampling for lead and copper is conducted at selected sites every three years.

We are also required to sample for lead in schools and licensed child care facilities as requested by the facility. *Please contact your school or child care facility for further information about potential sampling results.*

The complete Lead sampling data, Service Line Inventory Report, and any information on replacement plans for Lead, Galvanized, or Unknown service lines are available for review in our office.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time.

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be higher if:

- Your home or water system has lead pipes, or
- Your home has faucets or fittings made of brass which contains some lead, or
- Your home has copper pipes with lead solder and you have naturally soft water, and
- Water often sits in the pipes for several hours

You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk:

- Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly.
- Clean your aerator. Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula.
 - Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes.
 - You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.
 - If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact the office at (251) 446-1617.

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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

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

Lowest Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest contaminant level 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 Detected (MD)

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (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.

Millirem per year (mrem/yr): a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Not Applicable (NA)

Not Detected (ND)

ppb (parts per billion): micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppm (parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppt (parts per trillion): nanogram per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): a measure of radioactivity in water.

Threshold Odor Number (TON): The greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that still yields a just detectable odor.

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

OUR RESULTS

During the past year, we have taken thousands of water samples in order to determine the presence of any primary, secondary, or unregulated contaminants. The water quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent monitoring periods for each group. These tables only includes those contaminants that were detected in the water.

| Table of Detected Contaminants | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|---|
| Primary Standards - Mandatory standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act used to protect public health. These apply to all public water systems. | | | | | | |
| Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | MCL, TT, or MRDL (What's Allowed?) | MCLG (What's the Goal?) | Range Low - High | Maximum Detected | Violation | Major Sources |
| BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS - MONTHLY | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | < 5% present/absent | 0 | 2 present samples b | No | | Naturally present in the environment |
| RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS - 2021 | | | | | | |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 15 | 0 | 0.70 | No | | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Combined radium (pCi/L) | 5 | 0 | 1.03 | No | | Erosion of natural deposits |
| INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - 2023 | | | | | | |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 2 | 0.04 - 0.05 | 0.05 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.33 - 0.34 | 0.34 | No | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] NO ₃ (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.12 - 1.89 (2024) | 1.89 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| LEAD & COPPER (TAP WATER) - 2024 | | | | | | |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm) | AL=1.3 | 1.3 | 0.021 - 1.66 | 1.66 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) | AL=15 | 0 | ND - 4.6 | 4.6 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS - 2024 » | | | | | | |
| Total Haloacetic Acids HAA (ppb) | 60 | NA | ND - 6.6 | 6.6 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Trihalomethanes TTHM (ppb) | 80 | NA | ND - 1.85 | 18.5 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - 2024 | | | | | | |
| Xylenes (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.0009 - 0.0021 | 0.0021 | No | Discharge from petroleum factories and chemical factories |

b There were two 'Present' **Total Coliform** samples in 2024 (May & June). All follow-up testing was "Absent". The presence of coliform bacteria in the sample was not a compliance violation. These are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

» There is convincing evidence that the addition of a **disinfectant** is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Secondary Standards - Non Mandatory standards established as a guideline to assure good aesthetic qualities such as taste, color, and odor. All results in this table are from 2023

| Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | MCL | Maximum Detected | Major Sources |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---|
| Aluminum (ppm) | 0.05 to 0.2 | 0.01 | Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives |
| Chloride (ppm) | 250 | 5.8 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 2.0 | 0.34 | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| pH (std units) | 6.5 - 8.5 | 7.6 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives |
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 500 | 25.0 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or as a result of agricultural runoff |
| Hardness (ppm) | NA | 8.3 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives |
| Sodium (ppm) | NA | 8.1 | Naturally occurring in the environment |

| Unregulated Contaminants - 2024 | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | Average Detected | Range Low - High | Major Sources |
| Bromodichloromethane (ppb) | 1.5 | ND - 3.3 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by product of chlorination |
| Chloroform (ppb) | 4.8 | ND - 15.2 | Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by product of chlorination |
| Dichlorodifluoromethane (ppb) | 0.65 | ND - 1.3 | Result of industrial activities like manufacturing, processing, and disposal. It can also be found in some landfills and leachates |

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have properties useful in the manufacture of nonstick cookware, stain-resistant carpet and textiles, firefighting foams, food wrappers, and many more industrial and consumer applications. These chemicals, which have been produced in the United States since the early 1940s, are very persistent in the environment.

PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment. PFAS are found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and the globe. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

For more information on PFAS contaminants, please refer to www.epa.gov/pfas

Below is a list of PFAS contaminants for which our system monitored in 2020. **PFAS was not detected in our wells.**

| PFAS - 2020 | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| PFAS Contaminants (ppb) | Max Detected | PFAS Contaminants (ppb) | Max Detected |
| 11Cl-PF ₃ OUds (11-chloroicosafuoro-30xaundecane-1-sulfonic acid) | ND | Perfluorononanoic acid - PFNA | ND |
| 9Cl-PF ₃ ONS (9-chlorohexadecafluoro-30xanone-1-sulfonic acid) | ND | Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid - PFOS | ND |
| ADONA (4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid) | ND | Perfluorooctanoic acid - PFOA | ND |
| HFPO-DA (Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid) | ND | Perfluorodecanoic acid - PFDA | ND |
| NEtFOSAA (N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid) | ND | Perfluorododecanoic acid - PFDoA | ND |
| NMeFOSAA (N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid) | ND | Perfluorohexanoic acid - PFHxA | ND |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid - PFBS | ND | Perfluorotetradecanoic acid - PFTeDA | ND |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid - PFHpA | ND | Perfluorotridecanoic acid - PFTriDA | ND |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid - PFHxS | ND | Perfluoroundecanoic acid - PFUnA | ND |



UNDERSTANDING THE MEASUREMENTS

1 drop in 13.2 gallons of water = 1 ppm

OR, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 11.5 days

1 drop in a tanker truck = 1 ppb

OR, in terms of time, ppm can be thought of as one second in 32 years

At high levels, some primary contaminants are known to pose health risks to humans. The tables below list Primary Drinking Water Contaminants for which water systems routinely monitor; however, not all were detected in your drinking water. The contaminants that had some level of detection are listed in the *Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants* located on pages 2 - 3.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

| BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS | | | | ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | MCL, TT, or MRL (What's Allowed?) | Poarch Creek Max Detected | | Contaminant & Unit of MSMT | MCL, TT, or MRL (What's Allowed?) | Poarch Creek Max Detected |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | <5% present/Absent | 2 Present | | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb) | 200 | ND |
| Fecal Coliform & E. coli | present/Absent | Absent | | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb) | 5 | ND |
| Turbidity (NTU) | TT | NA | | 1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 7 | ND |
| RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS | | | | 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb) | 0.07 | ND |
| Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr) | 4 | ND | | 1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb) | 5 | ND |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L) | 15 | 0.70 | | 1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb) | 5 | ND |
| Combined radium (pCi/L) | 5 | 1.09 | | 2,4,5-TP (S) (ppb) | 50 | ND |
| DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS | | | | 2,4-D (ppb) | 70 | ND |
| Bromate (ppb) | 10 | ND | | Acrylamide (ppb) | TT | ND |
| Chloramines (ppm) | 4 | ND | | Alachlor (ppb) | 2 | ND |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 4 | ND | | Atrazine (ppb) | 3 | ND |
| Chlorine Dioxide (ppb) | 800 | ND | | Benzene (ppb) | 5 | ND |
| Chlorite (ppm) | 1 | ND | | Benzof(a)pyrene (PAHs nanograms/L) | 200 | ND |
| Total Haloacetic Acids HAA (ppb) | 60 | 6.6 | | Carbafuran (ppb) | 40 | ND |
| Total Trihalomethanes THM (ppb) | 80 | 18.5 | | Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb) | 5 | ND |
| INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS | | | | Chlordane (ppb) | 2 | ND |
| Antimony (ppb) | 6 | ND | | Chlorobenzene (ppb) | 100 | ND |
| Arsenic (ppb) | 10 | ND | | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb) | 70 | ND |
| Asbestos (MFL) | 7 | ND | | Dalapon (ppb) | 200 | ND |
| Barium (ppm) | 2 | 0.05 | | Dibromochloropropane (ppb) | 200 | ND |
| Beryllium (ppb) | 4 | ND | | Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate (ppb) | 400 | ND |
| Cadmium (ppb) | 5 | ND | | Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (ppb) | 6 | ND |
| Chromium (ppb) | 100 | ND | | Dinoseb (ppb) | 7 | ND |
| Copper - source water (ppm) | 1.0 | ND | | Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) (ppt) | 30 | NA |
| Cyanide (ppb) | 200 | ND | | Diquat (ppb) | 20 | ND |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 0.34 | | Endrin (ppb) | 100 | ND |
| Lead - source water (ppb) | AL=15 | ND | | Epichlorohydrin (ppb) | 2 | ND |
| Mercury (ppb) | 2 | ND | | Ethylbenzene (ppb) | 700 | ND |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) NO3 (ppm) | 10 | 1.99 | | Ethylene Dibromide (ppb) | 50 | ND |
| Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen) NO2 (ppm) | 1 | ND | | Glyphosate (ppb) | 700 | ND |
| Selenium (ppb) | 50 | ND | | Hepachlor (ppb) | 400 | ND |
| Thallium (ppb) | 2 | ND | | Hepachlor Epoxide (ppb) | 200 | ND |

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when the Earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs—all its agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community, and personal needs.
- Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes.
- 75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water.
- Water is part of a deeply interconnected system. What we pour on the ground ends up in our water, and what we sew into the sky ends up in our water.
- Water expands by 9% when it freezes. Frozen water (ice) is lighter than water, which is why ice floats in water.

<https://www3.epa.gov/safewater/kids/waterfactsofthe.html>

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

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. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 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, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immunocompromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplants recipients, people with HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

Water systems also test your source water for pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. EPA/CDC (Center for Disease Control) 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) or on EPA's website www.epa.gov/safewater.