

**2026 Annual Water Quality Report**  
(Testing Performed January through December 2025)

**RUSSELL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**PWSID AL0001145**

4109 Sandfort Road

Phenix City, AL 36867

Phone 334-297-3393

[www.rcwsa.com](http://www.rcwsa.com)

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report includes important information on our water sources, results of water analyses, plain language definitions, and other important information about water and health. We work diligently to provide high quality water that meets or exceeds State and Federal drinking water standards. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

<b>Water Sources</b>	Four groundwater wells producing from the Eutaw and Tuscaloosa aquifers	
	Purchased surface water from Phenix City	
<b>Additional Connections</b>	Sell water to Macon County Water Authority and Phenix City Utilities monthly	
	Emergency connection with Hurtsboro Water and Sewer Board as needed	
<b>Water Treatment</b>	Chlorination and corrosion control	
<b>Storage Capacity</b>	Seven tanks with a total capacity of 2,517,000 gallons	
<b>Number of Customers</b>	Approximately 57800	
<b>Board Members</b>	David Smith, Chairman	Naomi Elliott, Member
	Mark Godwin, Vice Chairman	Marsha Johnson, Member
	Robert Brundidge, Member	
<b>Monthly Board Meetings</b>	Third Wednesday of each month at the water office at 2:00 p.m.	
<b>General Manager</b>	Sheppard Dearing	
<b>Certified Operator</b>	Todd Hodges	
<b>Office Manager</b>	Annette Moffett	

**Source Water Protection**

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Russell County Water Authority has developed a Source Water Assessment Plan that assists in protecting our water sources. The plan provides information such as potential sources of contamination. It includes a susceptibility analysis, which classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contaminating the water source. The assessment was performed, public notification was completed, and the plan was approved by ADEM. You may arrange to view a copy of the reports by request during normal business hours. Please help us make this effort worthwhile by protecting our source water. Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints and waste oil.

**Health Information about Lead**

*Russell County Water Authority conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory during 2024 and completed it on March 28, 2025. It was concluded that our distribution system contains no known lead service lines to the point of sale to the customer. Of the 5,897 service lines in the system, there are 458 lines where the material classification is not known, but based on construction standards, records, and other factors, they are likely non-lead plastic or non-lead copper materials. The Lead Service Line Inventory report is available for review in our office upon request.*

Our water is treated for corrosion control with pH adjustment and a corrosion inhibitor, and corrosion monitoring is conducted continuously. We perform lead and copper testing on 30 samples collected within the distribution system every three years as assigned by ADEM. An outside laboratory analyzes the samples, and results have always been well below the MCL. You may view the results in our office upon request. If you have any questions about our lead sampling results, contact us at 334-297-3393. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. 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 components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Warrior River Water Authority is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your kitchen sink tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking, especially if the water has been sitting undisturbed for several hours, as in overnight. In all situations, especially for making baby formula, drink or cook only with water that comes out of the cold tap. Warm or hot tap water is more likely to cause lead to leach from plumbing materials. Periodically remove the aerator on the tip of the faucet and wash out any debris such as metal particles. Remember - Boiling will NOT reduce the amount of lead in your water. The recommendations above are likely to be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your house. 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 your family's exposure is available from [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) or by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Water systems are required to sample for lead in schools and licensed child care facilities as requested by the facility. Contact your school or child care facility for further information about potential sampling results.

### General Drinking Water Information

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. MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the levels 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 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 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 runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

If you are concerned about radon in your home consider having the home tested. Testing is easy and inexpensive. For more information call EPA's Radon Hotline at (800-SOS-RADON). *Note: public water systems in Alabama are not generally required to routinely monitor for radon in drinking water under current federal or state regulations.*

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 transplant recipients, 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 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 (800-426-4791).

### Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Sheppard Dearing, General Manager, at the water office. 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 meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the water office at 2:00 p.m. More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

### Monitoring Schedule and Results

Russell County Water Authority and Phenix City Utilities *routinely* monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws and our assigned schedule. The ADEM allows monitoring of 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 of monitoring for these contaminant groups. 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.

Constituent Monitored	Russell Co.	Phenix City
Inorganic Contaminants	2025	2025
Lead/Copper	2024	2025
Microbiological Contaminants	Monthly	Monthly
Nitrates	2025	2025
Radioactive Contaminants	2025	2024
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides and herbicides)	2025	2025
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2025	2024
Disinfection By-products	2025	2024
Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5)	2023	2024
Cryptosporidium	Not required	2024
PFAS Contaminants	2022	2022

As you can see by the following table, our system had no MCL violations. Although some constituents have been detected, we are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.

TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Russell County	Phenix City	Unit Msmt	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	NO		1.88	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	NO		1.78	ppm	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Turbidity	NO	0.10-0.30	0.124	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Total Coliform Bacteria	NO	1 present <sup>1</sup>	< 5%	Present or Absent	0	presence in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other bacteria may be present
Alpha emitters	NO	0.66	1.97	PCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	NO	ND-0.016	0.02	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes & metal refineries; erosion
Copper	NO	0.0, 20 <sup>2</sup> (0.0037-0.42)	0.160 *	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; leaching from preservatives
Fluoride	NO	0.14-0.16	0.54	ppm	4	4	Erosion; water additive for tooth health; factory discharge
Lead	NO	0.0013 <sup>2</sup> (ND-0.0067)	0.001 *	ppm	0	AL=0.015	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	NO	ND	1.0	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks & sewage; erosion
Simazine	NO	ND	0.22	ppb	4	4	Herbicide runoff
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	LRAA 32.0 (15.0-42.0)	LRAA 58.1 (5.3-64.0)	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	LRAA 17.3 (6.8-29.0)	LRAA 41.1 (ND-82.0)	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>							
Chloride	NO	6.1-8.8	13.2	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment; agricultural runoff
Hardness	NO	ND-9.9	24.8	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring; treatment with water additives
Iron	NO	ND-0.055	ND	ppm	n/a	0.30	Naturally occurring; erosion; leaching from pipes
pH	NO	8.4-8.6	7.8	S.U.	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring; treatment with water additives
Sodium	NO	37.1-43.9	18.6	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sulfate	NO	ND-7.7	11.2	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Total Dissolved Solids	NO	91.0-103	88.0	ppm	n/a	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Zinc	NO	ND-0.047	0.4	ppm	n/a	5	Erosion; discharge from refineries and factories; landfill runoff

<sup>1</sup> One coliform present sample occurred on June 10, 2025. All repeat samples were coliform absent.

<sup>2</sup> Figure shown is 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of latest round of sampling, and number of sample sites exceeding the Action Level (AL) = 0.

**PFAS Contaminants:** Below are tables showing PFAS contaminants for which our water sources were most recently monitored as required in 2022 and the results of that monitoring. For more information on PFAS contaminants, please consult [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas).

PFAS Contaminants (in ppb)									
Abbrev.	Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Detected	Abbrev.	Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Detected
11Cl-PF3OUdS	11-chloroicosafuoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	--	--	ND	PFDoA	Perfluorododecanoic acid	--	--	ND
9Cl-PF3ONS	9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid	--	--	ND	PFHpA	Perfluoroheptanoic acid	--	--	ND
ADONA	4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	--	--	ND	PFHxS	Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	0.010	0.010	ND
HFPO-DA	Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acidA	0.010	0.010	ND	PFNA	Perfluorononanoic acid	0.010	0.010	ND
NEiFOSAA	N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	--	--	ND	PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	0	0.004	ND
NMeFOSAA	N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	--	--	ND	PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic acid	0	0.004	ND
PFBS	Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	--	--	ND	PFTeDA	Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	--	--	ND
PFDA	Perfluorodecanoic acid	--	--	ND	PFTrDA	Perfluorotridecanoic acid	--	--	ND
PFHxA	Perfluorohexanoic acid	--	--	ND	PFUnA	Perfluoroundecanoic acid	--	--	ND

**UCMR5 Contaminants:** The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) requires monitoring by certain water systems for 30 unregulated contaminants during 2022 - 2026 on assigned schedules. UCMR 5 specifies monitoring for 29 PFAS contaminants and one metal (lithium). The table below contains the detected results of our monitoring during our assigned schedule in 2025. For more information, please refer to [www.epa.gov/dwucmr](http://www.epa.gov/dwucmr).

UCMR5 Contaminants (in ppb)			
Contaminants	Level Detected	Contaminants	Level Detected
PFBA (perfluorobutanoic acid)	ND-0-0.0069	PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)	ND-0.0055
PFBS (perfluorobutanesulfonic acid)	ND-0.0046	PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)	ND-0.0058
PFHxA (perfluorohexanoic acid)	ND-0.0053	PFPeA (perfluoropentanoic acid)	ND-0.0068

**Plain Language Definitions**

**Action Level:** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**Coliform Absent (ca):** laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Disinfection byproducts (DBPs):** formed when disinfectants react with bromide or natural organic matter present in the source water.

**Hazard Index (HI):** used to determine health concerns associated with mixtures of certain PFAS in finished drinking water. An HI greater than 1 requires a system to take action.

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) –** yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**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 (MRDL):** highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that disinfection is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Micrograms per liter (ug/L):** equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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.

**Microsiemens per centimeter (µs/cm):** unit of measurement for Specific Conductance.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/L):** equivalent to parts per million

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

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

**Not Detected (ND):** laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.

**Not Reported (NR):** detected result not reported by water system.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l):** corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l):** corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l):** corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Standard Units (S.U.):** pH of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases.

**Turbidity:** monitors the effectiveness of filtration, which removes pathogens and contaminants, and can help prevent bacterial growth and ensure disinfectant effectiveness.

**Unregulated Contaminants:** contaminants for which the EPA has not established MCLs.

**Variances & Exemptions (V&E):** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Below is a table of contaminants for which we monitor, if required, on a schedule set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

**STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS**

Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Detections	Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Detections
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants</b>				1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	Present or absent	absent	cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	ND
Fecal Coliform & E.coli	0	Present or absent	absent	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb	ND
Turbidity	TT	NTU	0.3	Dichloromethane	5	ppb	ND
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calc.organisms/l	N/A	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb	ND
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>				Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb	ND
Beta/photom emitters	4	mrem/yr	ND	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb	ND
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	0.66	Dinoseb	7	ppb	ND
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	0.49	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ppq	ND
Uranium	30	pCi/l	ND	Diquat	20	ppb	ND
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>				Endothal	100	ppb	ND
Antimony	6	ppb	ND	Endrin	2	ppb	ND
Arsenic	10	ppb	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT	ND
Asbestos	7	MFL	ND	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb	ND
Barium	2	ppm	0.016	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt	ND
Beryllium	4	ppb	ND	Glyphosate	700	ppb	ND
Cadmium	5	ppb	ND	Heptachlor	400	ppt	ND
Chromium	100	ppb	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt	ND
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	0.0037-0.42	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb	ND
Cyanide	200	ppb	ND	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb	ND
Fluoride	4	ppm	0.14-0.16	Lindane	200	ppt	ND
Lead	AL=15	ppb	ND-0.0067	Methoxychlor	40	ppb	ND
Mercury	2	ppb	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb	ND
Nitrate	10	ppm	ND	Polychlorinated biphenyls	0.5	ppb	ND
Nitrite	1	ppm	ND	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb	ND
Selenium	.05	ppm	ND	Picloram	500	ppb	ND
Thallium	.002	ppm	ND	Simazine	4	ppb	ND
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>				Styrene	100	ppb	ND
2,4-D	70	ppb	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb	ND
Acrylamide	TT	TT	ND	Toluene	1	ppm	ND
Alachlor	2	ppb	ND	Toxaphene	3	ppb	ND
Benzene	5	ppb	ND	2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	50	ppb	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppt	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ppm	ND
Carbofuran	40	ppb	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb	ND
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb	ND
Chlordane	2	ppb	ND	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb	ND
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	ND	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb	ND
Dalapon	200	ppb	ND	Xylenes	10	ppm	ND
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	ND	<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>			
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	1000	ppb	ND	THM	80	ppb	15.0-42.0
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (para)	75	ppb	ND	HAA5	60	ppb	6.8-29.0
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	ND				
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	ND				
<b>LIST OF SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Alkalinity, Total (as CA, Co <sub>3</sub> )	Copper	Manganese	Specific Conductance				
Aluminum	Corrosivity	Odor	Sulfate				
Calcium, as Ca	Foaming agents (MBAS)	Nickel	Total Dissolved Solids				
Carbon Dioxide	Hardness	pH	Zinc				
Chloride	Iron	Silver					
Color	Magnesium	Sodium					
<b>LIST OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Aldicarb	Carbaryl	Dichlorodifluoromethane	1-Naphthol				
Aldicarb Sulfone	Chloroethane	Dieldrin	Paraquat				
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Chloroform	Hexachlorobutadiene	Propachlor				
Aldrin	Chloromethane	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	N-Propylbenzene				
Bromoacetic Acid	O-Chlorotoluene	Isopropylbenzene	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane				
Bromobenzene	P-Chlorotoluene	p-Isopropyltoluene	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane				
Bromochloromethane	Dibromochloromethane	m-Dichlorobenzene	Tetrachloroethene				
Bromodichloromethane	Dibromomethane	Methomyl	Trichloroacetic Acid				
Bromoform	1,1-Dichloroethane	Methylene chloride	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene				
Bromomethane	1,3-Dichloropropane	Methyl tert-butyl ether	Trichloroethene				
Butachlor	2,2-Dichloropropane	Metolachlor	Trichlorofluoromethane				
N-Butylbenzene	1,1-Dichloropropene	Metribuzin	1,2,3-Trichloropropane				
Sec-Butylbenzene	1,3-Dichloropropene	MTBE	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene				
Tert-Butylbenzene	Dicamba	Naphthalene	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene				

**More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).**