Riceville Utility District
Water Quality Report for 2024

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 11 of these contaminants.

What is the source of my water?

Your water is purchased surface water from Hiwassee Utilities Commission (Source is Hiwassee River), and from Athens Utility Board (Source is a Spring that has been in used for decades, three wells that tap an aquifer in the Oostanaula Creek Basin, and the Hiwassee River via purchases from treated water from Hiwassee Utilities Commission).Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to ***potential*** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to ***potential*** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Riceville Utility District sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information about your drinking water, please call Virginia Jennings at 423-462-2701.

How can I get involved?

Our Water Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the office, 3802 Hwy 11S. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. The Commissioners of Riceville Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by the McMinn Co. Mayor from a list of three nominees provided by the Board of Commissioners. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Riceville Utility District's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have under-gone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets 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).

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Riceville Utility District 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. 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. 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 and wish to have your water tested, contact . Riceville Utility District at 423-462-2701. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Lead Service Line Inventory

A Lead Service Line Inventory has been completed for our system and is accessible by contacting our office during regular business hours.

Water System Security
Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 423-462-2701.

Pharmaceuticals In Drinking Water
Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Learn more about disposing of unused medicines at https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. 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.
- MRDL: 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 the control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. 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.
- AL - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – explained as a relation to time and money as 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 - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- 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.
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- TT - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Riceville Utility District
Water Quality Report Results for 2024

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	No	0		2024		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Copper[1]	No	90th% = 0.166	0.0072-0.166	2024	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead[1]	No	90th% = < 2.0	< 2.0 – < 2.0	2024	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	No	48.00 Avg.	22.10-80.90	2024	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	No	40.93 Avg.	26.90-61.00	2024	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MRDL	MRDLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	No	1.31 Avg.	0.60-1.70	2024	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

[1] During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level for lead and 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level for copper. 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. The lead level is the lowest the lab can detect accurately.

UCMR 5: Unregulated Contaminants: No unregulated contaminants were above the MRL.
MRL – Minimum Reporting Level is the lowest analyte concentration that meets Data Quality Objectives that are developed based on the intended use of this method.
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 occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Athens Utilities Board (AUB) and Hiwassee Utilities Commission (HUC) – 2024 Water Quality Table

Parameter	Units	Year Performed	AUB Result	HUC Result	Regulatory Limit MCL	Goal MCLG	Source
REGULATED AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT							
Turbidity	NTU	2024	0.28	0.12	TT	TT	Soil Runoff. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
Range			0.03 - 0.28	0.02 - 0.12			
Fluoride	ppm	2024	0.43 avg.	0.26	4.0	4.0	Additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Range	ppm		0.19 - 0.54	<0.15 - <0.15			
Nitrate	ppm	2024	1.21	0.332	10.0	10.0	Fertilizer use, septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	2024	0.552	1.01	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment. We met the Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon in 2018.
Range			<0.5 - 0.552	0.65 - 1.70			
Sodium	ppm	2024	4.58	2.67	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits
REGULATED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND CUSTOMER TAP							
Total Coliform Bacteria (# positive samples)		2024	0	0	5	n/a	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	2024	41.13	69.3	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		17.04 - 77.04	39.0 - 69.3			
Haloacetic Acids -5	ppb	2024	34.03	42.8	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		17.7 - 59.2	24.4 - 42.8			
Chlorine	ppm	2024	1.27 avg.	1.9	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Range	ppm		0.5 - 2.0	1.7 - 1.9			
Lead (90%)	ppb	2024	<1.0	<2.0	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested were above EPA's action level (see special note below)
Copper (90%)	ppm	2024	0.01080	0.00422	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested was above EPA's action level
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING							
PFBS	ppb	2024	0.00453	0.0029			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 occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
Range			<0.001 - 0.0116	<0.001 - 0.0041			
PFBA	ppb	2024	0.0011				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
PFHxS	ppb	2024	0.001				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
HFPO-DA	ppb	2024	0.002				
Range			<0.001 – 0.002				

The following definitions and explanations may help you understand more fully the data in this table:

- **MCL** – "Maximum Contaminant Level." The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG** – "Maximum Contaminant Level Goal." The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL** – "Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level." The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** – "Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal." 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.
- **ppb** = parts per billion **ppm** = parts per million pCi/L=Picocuries per liter.
- **TT** – "Treatment Technique." A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **NTU** – This stands for "Nephelometric Turbidity Units" and measures the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The EPA has two requirements: (1) The maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU; and (2) The level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time.
- **HUC** - Hiwassee Utilities Commission – AUB purchases 35% of the water distributed to customers from HUC.

- AUB conducts water quality testing daily and has tested your water for many substances not included in the table such as pesticides, herbicides, metals, and solvents. None of these substances were detected using prescribed EPA analytical methods.

Special Note: 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. Athens Utilities Board is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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.

Special Note: Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Feel free to share this information with others who drink AUB water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can post this notice in a public place or distribute copies by hand or mail.