

Hancock Co. Water & Sewer District

2009 Water Quality Report

Hancock County 230065

Is my water safe?

Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 3 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

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 undergone 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 drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from? Our water source is the Miocene Aquifer, with the well at @785' deep. **Source water assessment report** are available at the office.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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 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 which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved? You are invited to attend the monthly meeting. It is held at 7040 Stennis Airport Road, Kiln, MS. on the 2 nd Friday of each month at 3:00 p.m. Please call ahead to verify. 228-467-6208.

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Monday – Thursday. Friday 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Emergency answering service 24 hr. 228-467-6208.

Source Water Protection Tips: Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- 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.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for 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. Hancock Co. Water & Sewer District 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
	<u>or MRDLG</u>	<u>MRDL</u>		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1.84	NA		2009	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	0.057	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	0.068	NA		2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	NA	2008	-1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	44	2008	1	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Violations and Exceedances								
Lead - action level at consumer taps								
Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Occurred at one sample site. Changed sample site								
Unit Descriptions & Important Drinking Water Definitions:								
ppm parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)								
ppb part per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l), NA not applicable, MCLG Max Contaminant Level Goal, MCL Maximum Contaminant Level-The "Max Allowed" is the highest level of 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.								
AC Action Level- concentration of a contaminant which, exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. 2 microbiological samples are taken once a month. No E.Coli or Total Coliform was detected in the 2009 sampling period.								
For more information please contact: Mr. Al Smith, HCWSD P.O. Box 2759 Bay St. Louis, MS 39521								