



2026 Annual Water Quality Report For the 2025 Testing Period

Message From The General Manager

To Our Valued Customers:

Hartselle Utilities is pleased to present the Annual Water Quality Report, affirming our commitment to delivering safe and reliable drinking water to the community. We prioritize meeting the highest quality standards through rigorous testing programs and delivery procedures, ensuring the water supplied is safe for all residents. Recognizing the critical role of clean water in public health and safety, we consistently aim to surpass state and federal water quality regulations.

Hartselle Utilities is committed to providing this essential resource at a highly affordable rate. The cost of delivering high-quality water is exceptionally low—just a fraction of a penny per gallon. This cost-effectiveness enables ongoing investment in infrastructure upgrades and advanced technologies, supporting the sustainable delivery of safe drinking water for the future. We appreciate your trust in us as your water service provider and remain steadfast in our dedication to service excellence. Please review this report for detailed information regarding the source and quality of your drinking water, based on EPA-required testing conducted on our system from January 2025 to December 2025.

Ty Chancellor, P.E.
General Manager

Other Hartselle Utilities Info

To find out more about Hartselle Utilities, please visit our web page at www.hartselleutilities.org.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. To that end, we welcome you to attend our regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Board normally meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Main Office located at 1010 Sparkman Street NW. If you have questions concerning meeting dates or times, please contact Carol Kirby at ckirby@hartselleutilities.org.

Board Members:		Contact Information:	
Chairman	Barry Hampton	For Billing Information	(256) 773-3341
Vice Chairman	Johnnie Howell	All Other Offices	(256) 773-3340
Secretary/Treasurer	Ben Peck	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 488
Members	Jimmy Moore, Michael Gunter		Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Where Hartselle's water comes from...

Our water comes from Decatur Utilities which uses the Tennessee River as its source. The Tennessee River is a surface water source. Raw water is pumped from the river into Decatur Utilities' treatment plant where chemicals are added to create the settling of particles. The water is then sent through sand filters to remove any unsettled particles. Disinfection is then achieved with the addition of chlorine. Fluoride is also added for the protection of children's teeth. After the treatment process is complete, the resulting potable water is then pumped into the distribution system. Hartselle Utilities receives water from Decatur Utilities through a metered connection at the Hartselle Utilities' Water Booster Station. Hartselle Utilities adds additional chlorine to meet minimum standards. From there the water is pumped into Hartselle's distribution system and storage tanks.

Health Risk Information

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 sources 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 at (800) 426-4791.

TOTAL COLIFORM: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a strict limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are conducted to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

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. Hartselle Utilities 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 lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

DIOXIN and ASBESTOS: Based on a study conducted by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management with the approval of USEPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for any of these contaminants was not required.

The following tables list the substances that were tested for during the January 1st to December 31st testing period in 2025. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least some tested substances. The presence of these substances does not necessarily pose a health risk. To view this report online or to download an electronic copy, visit our web page at www.hartselleutilities.org. Additional copies of this report can be obtained at the Hartselle Utilities Main Office at 1010 Sparkman Street NW, Hartselle, Alabama. **Many other substances are tested for as part of the initial water treatment process at the Decatur Utilities Water Treatment Plant and are all listed in the DU Annual Water Quality Report. Sampling data from the DU Annual Water Quality Report can be seen at the end of this report.** Also, complete copies of the Decatur Utilities 2026 Annual Water Quality Report can be obtained by calling their Customer Service department at (256) 552-1440 or visit them online at www.decatrutilities.com.

How to read the tables

Hartselle Utilities conducts extensive monitoring to ensure that your water meets all water quality standards. The results of our monitoring are included in the tables below. For help interpreting the tables, see the “Definitions” section below. Starting with **Substance**, read across. **Compliance Achieved** means that the ADEM and EPA requirements were met. **Level Detected** represents the measured amount (less is better). **Range** tells the highest and lowest amounts measured. **MCL** shows the highest level of a substance (contaminant) that’s allowed. **MCLG** is the goal level for that substance (sometimes set lower than the MCL allowable level). **Typical Source** tells where the substance usually originates.

Results For Compliance Testing						
Substance (units)	Compliance Achieved	Level Detected	Range	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants (Tested from distribution piping)						
Copper (ppm) Tested in 2025	YES	0.2085	0.0102-1.080	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppm) Tested in 2025	YES	0.002	< 0.0020	0.015	0	Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS – On February 15, 2006, EPA instituted a new rule for water systems called the Stage 2 Disinfectant and Disinfection Byproducts Rule that deals with trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). On January 1, 2012 the rule changed some existing sample sites and added some additional sites, as well as, changing the ways the averages will be calculated. HU has been actively sampling the distribution system to verify that we are 100% in compliance with the new rules that were implemented on January 1, 2012.						
Chlorine (ppm)	YES	1.483	0.71 – 2.18	4	N/A	Added during the treatment process as a disinfectant
TTHM (ppm) (Total trihalomethanes)	YES	0.03467 (HRAA)	0.0168 – 0.0519	0.08	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppm) (5 Haloacetic acids)	YES	0.0247 (HRAA)	0.0124 – 0.0448	0.06	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bacteriological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	YES	ND	N/A	<5%	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform & E.coli	YES	ND	N/A	0	N/A	Human and animal fecal waste
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system.						

Definitions:			
<i>MCL</i> (Maximum Contaminant Level)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water	<i>ppm</i> (Parts per million)	One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000
<i>MCLG</i> (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health	<i>ppb</i> (Parts per billion)	One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000
<i>RAA</i> (Running Annual Average)	Based on the most recent four quarters of testing	<i>Level 1 Assessment</i>	A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
<i>HRAA</i> (Highest Running Annual Average)	The highest running annual average during a calendar year based on seven quarters of testing	<i>ND (Non-detects)</i>	Lab analysis indicated no constituent present
<i>TT (Treatment Technique)</i>	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminate in drinking water.	<i>AL (Action Level)</i>	The concentration of a contaminate, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or requirements.
The definitions above can be used to interpret tables within this report.			

Results For Testing Of Unregulated Contaminants

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS –EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring (UCM) to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The following are the results of testing in 2018-2024.		
Contaminant	Amount Detected (ppt)	Range (ppt)
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	5.75	3.5 – 7.8
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	3.03	1.9 – 4.4

MCL's (Maximum Contaminant Levels) are set at very stringent levels by the USEPA. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having a particular health effect.

As you can see in the table, our system had no violations. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some substances have been detected. The EPA has determined that your drinking water is safe at these levels.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of 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 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 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 storm water 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 storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

LSLI – Lead Service Line Inventory

Hartselle Utilities performed the LSLI, Lead Service Line Inventory, in October of 2024. No lead or galvanized requiring replacement were found during the inventory inspection. The full inventory of this inspection can be accessed by following the link provided below.

<https://hartselleutilities.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Website-Inventory-Data-2024-10-01.pdf>

Sampling Data from DU 2026 Annual Water Quality Report

Definitions and Abbreviations

Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers some follow-up action.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) - the state environmental regulatory agency.

Alabama Water Pollution Control Association (AWPCA) - a charitable organization to advance knowledge about water supply and treatment.

Coliform Absent (ca) - Laboratory analysis indicates coliform bacteria not present.

Disinfection Byproducts - formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with natural organic matter present in the source water and produce byproducts.

Distribution System Evaluation (DSE) - a one-year study conducted by water systems to monitor disinfection byproducts.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - the nation's environmental regulatory agency.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - highest level of contaminant 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) - maximum levels for disinfectants, set as close to the health goals as possible.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG) - non-enforceable health goals, based on possible health risks and exposure over a lifetime, with an adequate margin of safety.

Microsiemens (1/1,000,000 siemen) per centimeter (µS/cm) – a measure of Specific Conductance.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - a measure of the clarity of water.

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

Not Required (NR) - laboratory analysis not required due to waiver.

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.

Running annual average (RAA) - the required method of calculating compliance on disinfection byproducts, TTHM and HAA5.

Specific Conductance (SC) – A measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current

Threshold Odor Number (TON) - the greatest dilution of a sample with odor-free water that yields a barely detectable odor.

Treatment Technique (TT) - a required process to reduce a contaminant.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) - EPA program to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards.

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

Decatur Utilities has been granted a waiver to reduce sampling for Lead/Copper and SOCs to once every three years. This is based on prior sampling events not detecting these contaminants. Based on a study conducted by ADEM with EPA approval, a statewide waiver for monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Therefore, these contaminants were not sampled. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

Constituents Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2025
Lead/Copper	2024
Microbiological Contaminants	2025
Nitrates	2025
Radioactive Contaminants	2021
Synthetic Organic Contaminants	2023
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2025
Disinfection Byproducts	2025
UCMR5	2024
Cryptosporidium	2025

As you can see by the table of **Detected Drinking Water Contaminants** below, our system had no violations. We have determined through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. For assistance interpreting these tables, reference the Definitions and Abbreviations section listed above.

DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS						
Level Detected	Violation YES/NO	Level Detected	Range	Unit	MCLG	MCL
Primary Contaminants						
Barium	NO	0.021	0.021	ppm	2.0	2.0
Chlorine	NO	RAA 1.89	1.65-2.13	ppm	MROU-4	MROU-4
Chromium	NO	ND	ND	ppb	300	300
Total Organic Carbon	NO	RAA 1.6	1.4-1.9	ppm	n/a	TT
Turbidity (filtered)	NO	range 0.144	0.029-0.144	NTU	n/a	TT
Copper	NO	0.24*	0.015-0.430	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3
Fluoride - WTP	NO	0.92	0.98-0.92	ppm	4	4
Lead	NO	ND**	ND-1.4	ppb	0	AL=15
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	NO	0.44	0.44	ppm	10	10
THM (Total trihalomethanes)	NO	HRBA 34.5	10.7-47.0	ppb	0	80
HAAS (Total haloacetic acids)	NO	HRBA 38.7	10.3-39.8	ppb	0	60
Free Chlorine	NO	0.11*	0.14	ppm	0	15
Radium-226	NO	0.62	0.62	pCi/L	0	5
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	NO	0.0024	0.0024	ppm	n/a	n/a
Bromochloromethane	NO	0.0021	0.0021	ppm	n/a	n/a
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	NO	3.71	2.03-3.71	ppb	n/a	n/a
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPA)	NO	1.20	0.62-1.20	ppb	n/a	n/a
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	NO	0.71	0.71	ppb	n/a	n/a
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFHxO)	NO	1.93	1.23-1.93	ppb	n/a	n/a
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	NO	3.31	1.61-3.31	ppb	n/a	n/a
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDDA)	NO	2.94	1.44-2.94	ppb	n/a	n/a
Secondary Contaminants						
Alkalinity, Total (as Ca, Co3)	NO	68	39-79	ppm	n/a	n/a
Aluminum	NO	0.018	0.018	ppm	n/a	0.2
Calcium, as Ca	NO	23.6	23.6	ppm	n/a	n/a
Carbon Dioxide	NO	ND	ND	ppm	n/a	n/a
Chloride	NO	14.1	14.1	ppm	n/a	250
Color	NO	6.0	ND-6.0	units	none	15
Hardness, as CaCO3	NO	79.5	79.5	ppm	n/a	n/a
Iron	NO	0.07	ND-0.07	ppm	none	0.3
Magnesium, as Mg	NO	5.0	ND	ppm	none	none
Manganese, as Mn	NO	0.05	ND-0.05	ppm	none	0.05
pH	NO	7.12	6.70-7.80	pH	n/a	n/a
Sodium	NO	5.8	5.8	ppm	n/a	n/a
Specific Conductance	NO	204	204	umhos/cm	n/a	250
Sulfate	NO	10.2	10.2	ppm	n/a	500
Total Dissolved Solid	NO	91	91	ppm	n/a	n/a

To the right is a table of contaminants for which the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management require testing. These contaminants were not detected in your drinking water unless they are also listed in the detected **Drinking Water Contaminants** table.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS				
Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Mgmt	Contaminant	MCL
Bacteriological Contaminants				
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present/absent	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0	present/absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400
Cryptosporidium	TT	CDC organ-ismal	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6
Radiochemical Contaminants				
Beta/gamma emitters	4	mrem/yr	Dioxin	7
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endrin	20
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Endrin	100
Inorganic Chemicals				
Antimony	6	ppb	Epichlorohydrin	TT
Arsenic	10	ppb	Ethylbenzene	700
Asbestos	7	MFL	Ethylene dibromide	50
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor epoxide	200
Beryllium	4	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1
Cadmium	5	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50
Chromium	300	ppm	Lindane	200
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Methoxychlor	40
Cyanide	200	ppb	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200
Fluoride	4	ppm	Pentachlorophenol	0.5
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Picloram	500
Mercury	2	ppb	Simeazine	4
Nitrate	10	ppm	Styrene	100
Nitrite	1	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5
Selenium	0.05	ppm	Toluene	1
Thallium	0.002	ppm	Toxaphene	3
Organic Contaminants				
2,4-D	70	ppb	2,4,5-TP(Silver)	50
Acrylamide	TT	TT	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200
Atrazine	3	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5
Benzene	5	ppb	Trichloroethylene	5
Benzo(a)pyrene (PAHs)	200	ppt	Vinyl Chloride	2
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Xylenes	10
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts	
Chlordane	2	ppb	Chlorine	4
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800
Chloroform	200	ppb	Chloramines	4
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Bromate	10
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Chlorite	1
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	HAAS (Total haloacetic acids)	50
1,1-Dichloroethane	7	ppb	THM (Total trihalomethanes)	80
ds-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb	Total Organic Carbon	TT
Unregulated Contaminants				
1,1-Dichloropropene	Bromoacetaldehyde	Methoxy	Methylchlor	
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Bromoacetaldehyde	Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid - (PFBS)	N-Tert-butylbenzene	
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Bromoform	Perfluorobutanoic acid - (PFBA)	Naphthalene	
1,1-Dichloroethane	Bromonitrile	Perfluoropentanoic acid - (PFPA)	N-Propylbenzene	
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Butachlor	Perfluorohexanoic acid - (PFHxA)	O-Chlorotoluene	
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Carbaryl	Perfluorooctanoic acid - (PFHxO)	P-Isopropyltoluene	
1,2,4-Trinitrobenzene	Chlorobenzene Chloroform	Perfluorodecanoic acid - (PFDA)	Propachlor	
1,3-Dichloropropane	Chlorobromomethane	Perfluorododecanoic acid - (PFDDA)	Tert-Butylbenzene	
1,3,5-Trinitrobenzene	Chloromethane	Perfluorododecane sulfonic acid - (PFDS)	Trichloroethylene	
2,2-Dichloropropane	Dibromochloropropane	Perfluorododecane sulfonic acid - (PFDA)		
3-Hydroxybutanoic acid	Dicamba			
Alkylsulfonate	Dichlorodifluoromethane			
Alkylsulfonate	Dieldrin			
Alkylsulfonate	Hexachlorobutadiene			
Alkylsulfonate	Isopropylbenzene			
Alkylsulfonate	M-Dichlorobenzene			
Secondary Contaminants				
Alkalinity, Total (CA, Co3)	Corrosivity	Magnesium	Sodium	
Aluminum	Forming agents	Manganese	Sulfate	
Calcium, as Ca	(MBAS)	Odor	Total Dissolved Solids	
Chloride	Hardness	Nickel	Zinc	
Color	Iron	pH	Zinc	
Copper	Langelier Index	Silver		

The EPA's **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR5)** required some water systems to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants during 2013-2025. Our system began sampling in 2023 and the results are shown below.

UCMR5 DETECTED UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS		
Contaminant	Average Amount detected (ppt)	Range (ppt)
Finished Water (Entry Point to the Distribution System)		
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	7.15	0 - 13.0
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	1.63	0 - 3.4