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*2018 Annual*

*Water Quality Report*

*for the*

*2017 Testing Period*

**From The General Manager's Desk**

To Our Valued Customers:

Hartselle Utilities is proud to be your local water service provider, and I am pleased to share some very good news about the quality of your drinking water. As required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, our Annual Water Quality Report provides a summary of the quality of water provided by Hartselle Utilities. As you read through this report you will see that we continue to supply water that meets or surpasses all state and federal water quality standards.

Better yet, the price you pay for this high-quality water service remains a fraction of a penny per gallon. This is an exceptional value when you consider the facilities and technology needed to draw water from the source and treat it, along with miles and miles of pipeline hidden below the ground to bring water to your tap. What’s more, our water quality experts, operators, engineers, and maintenance crews work around the clock to make sure that quality water is always there when you need it. Because water is essential for public health, fire protection, economic development, and overall quality of life, Hartselle Utilities employees are committed to ensuring that quality drinking water keeps flowing not only today but well into the future.

Please take the time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using EPA required data from water quality testing conducted on our water system between January and December 2017.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Bob Sittason

General Manager

**Other Hartselle Utilities Info**

To find out more about Hartselle Utilities, please visit our web page at [www.hartselleutilities.org](http://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 and third 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.

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| **Board Members:** |  | **Contact Information:** |  |
| **Chairman** | **Ed Monroe** | **For Billing Information** | **(256) 773-3341** |
| **Vice Chairman** | **Michael Gunter** | **All Other Offices** | **(256) 773-3340** |
| **Secretary/Treasurer** | **Jimmy Moore** | **Mailing Address** | **P.O. Box 488** |
| **Members** | **Terry Phillips & Ferrell Vest** |  | **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 2017. 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](http://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. Copies of the Decatur Utilities 2018 Annual Water Quality Report can be obtained by calling their Customer Service department at (256) 552-1440 or visit them online at www.decaturutilities.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 S**ubstance**, 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.

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| **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 2016 | YES | 0.227 | 0.0033 – 0.227 | 1.3 | 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (ppm)Tested in 2016 | YES | 0.0016 | 0.001 – 0.0016 | 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). 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 January1, 2012. |
| Chlorine (ppm) | YES | 1.84 | 0.90 – 1.84 | 4 | N/A | Added during the treatment process as a disinfectant |
| TTHM (ppm)(Total trihalomethanes) | YES | 0.059(HRAA) | 0.0075 – 0.059 | 0.08 | N/A | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| HAA5 (ppm)(5 Haloacetic acids) | YES | 0.0489(HRAA) | 0.0124 – 0.0489 | 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 |

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| **Definitions:** |
| *MCL* *(Maximum Contaminant Level)* | The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water | *NTU**(Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)* | A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. |
| *MCLG**(Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)* | The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health | *pCi/L**(Picocuries per liter)* | A measure of radioactivity in water |
| *TT**(Treatment Technique)* | A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water | *ppm**(Parts per million)* | One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000 |
| *AL**(Action Level)* | The concentrations of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. | *ppb**(Parts per billion)* | One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000 |
| *RAA**(Running Annual Average)* | Based on the most recent four quarters of testing | *mg/l**(Milligrams per litre)* | Same as ppm |
| *HRAA**(Highest Running Annual Average)* | The highest running annual average during a calendar year based on seven quarters of testing | *Ug/L**(micrograms per liter)* | Same as ppb |
| ***ND*** *(Non-detects)* | Lab analysis indicated no constituent present |  |

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| **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 2015. |
| **Entry Point to Distribution System (Decatur Purchase Meter)** | **Distribution System Data(Maximum** **Water Age)** |
| **Contaminant** | **Amount Detected (ug/L)** | **Range (ug/L)** | **Contaminant** | **Amount Detected (ug/L)** | **Range (ug/L)** |
| (Tested in 2015) |  |  | Chromium | 0.22 | <0.2-0.22 |
| Strontium | 73.4 | 72.0-73.4 | Strontium | 77.0 | 73.4-77.0 |
| Vanadium | 0.22 | 0.2-0.22 | Vanadium | 0.5 | 0.22-0.5 |
| 1,4-Dioxane | 0.13 | 0.11-0.13 |  |  |  |
| Chromium-6 | 0.16 | 0.088-0.16 | Chromium-6 | 0.14 | 0.097-0.14 |
| Chlorate | 105 | 103-105 | Chlorate | 139 | 98.4-139 |

**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:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
2. 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.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
4. 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.
5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.