

HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES is pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This publication is our commitment to keep you, our customer, informed on issues related to water service. This report provides information concerning the source of your drinking water, treatment techniques, test results, as well as an explanation of the numbers and terms used in it. Huntsville Utilities works diligently to provide high quality water at the lowest possible price. We are committed to providing a quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards.

**WATER SOURCES:** Huntsville Utilities supplies drinking water to approximately 100,000 customers from both surface water and groundwater sources. Surface water from the Tennessee River and Guntersville Lake is processed through three conventional surface water treatment plants, the South Parkway facility, Southwest Treatment Plant, and the Southeast Treatment Plant. Groundwater is supplied from the Lincoln and Dallas Well Treatment Plant and Williams Well. All the groundwater wells produce from limestone aquifers. Our source is also supplemented by treated water purchased from Limestone County Water Authority's Turner Water Treatment Plant. 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.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT:** Huntsville Utilities has developed a Source Water Assessment plan that assists in protecting our water sources. This plan provides information about potential sources of contamination and classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contaminating the water source. In 2015 we updated the Source Water Assessment. These reports are available for review in our office during normal business hours by appointment. Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by doing what you can to protect our source water. For example, carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints and waste oil. Please inform us if you observe actions that might compromise the quality of our drinking water.

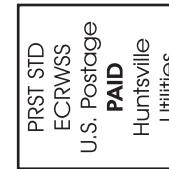
**LEAD AND DRINKING WATER:** As required by federal and state agencies, we also have an outside laboratory monitor our distribution system for lead. Levels of lead in our system have always been well below the minimum standard. Even though we do not have a problem with lead, the following information about lead is required to be in this report: 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. Huntsville 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 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, lead testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available on the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water](http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water) or by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**QUESTIONS:** Public interest and participation in decisions affecting drinking water or other utility issues is encouraged. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Reynolds in the Water Quality Lab at (256) 650-6374 or by email at [waterlab@hsvutil.org](mailto:waterlab@hsvutil.org). More information about contaminants in drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If you would like to attend one of our regularly scheduled board meetings, you may check our website ([www.hsvutil.org](http://www.hsvutil.org)) for the meeting schedule. They are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at Huntsville Utilities, 112 Spragins Street. Board members include Mr. Jim Batson, Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, and Mr. Max (Gripp) Luther.

Definitions	
<b>Action Level</b>	- the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers some follow-up action
<b>ADEM</b>	- Alabama Department of Environmental Management - Alabama's environmental regulatory agency
<b>AWPCA</b>	- Alabama Water Pollution Control Association
<b>Disinfection byproducts</b>	- produced when disinfectants used in water treatment react with natural organic matter present in the source water
<b>Distribution System Evaluation (DSE)</b>	- a one-year study conducted by water systems to monitor disinfection byproducts.
<b>EPA</b>	- the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)</b>	- highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water.
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</b>	- the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
<b>Millirems per year (mrem/yr)</b>	- measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
<b>Minimum Reporting Limit (MRL)</b>	- either not detected or is smallest measured concentration that can be measured by using a given analytical method
<b>Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)</b>	- a measure of the clarity of water.
<b>Not Applicable (NA)</b>	- Not applicable to water system because not required.
<b>Non-Detect (ND)</b>	- laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level; less than the MRL.
<b>Not Required (NR)</b>	- laboratory analysis not required due to waiver.
<b>Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)</b>	- corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
<b>Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)</b>	- corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
<b>Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)</b>	- corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
<b>Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)</b>	- corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
<b>Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)</b>	- a measure of the radioactivity in water.
<b>Running annual average (RAA)</b>	- the required method of calculating compliance on disinfection byproducts, TTHM and HAA5.
<b>Treatment Technique (TT)</b>	- a required process to reduce a contaminant.
<b>UCMR</b>	- Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule.
<b>Variations &amp; Exemptions (V&amp;E)</b>	- State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

*The EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low."*



**HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES**  
ELECTRICITY • NATURAL GAS • WATER  
P. O. Box 2048  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
[www.hsvutil.org](http://www.hsvutil.org)



**Huntsville Utilities 2021 Water Quality Report**  
*Esta información acerca de su agua potable es muy importante. Le recomendamos que alguien traducirlo para usted.*

## 2021 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Testing Performed January - December 2020

# HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY • NATURAL GAS • WATER



P. O. Box 2048  
Huntsville, AL 35804

Phone (256) 881-6281  
Fax (256) 650-6388

### Excellence Awards

Huntsville Utilities has been recognized numerous times over the past two decades for outstanding service, receiving several excellence awards over the years. The most recent awards are:



- AWPCA 2019 Best Operated Plant for the Southwest Plant
- ADEM 2020 Plant Optimization Award for the South Parkway Plant (3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year)
- ADEM 2020 Plant Optimization Award for the Southeast Plant (2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
[www.hsvutil.org](http://www.hsvutil.org)

