

## Water Source

The Baton Rouge Water Company operates 65 ground water wells completed in the various sands of the Southern Hills aquifer system which underlie our service area. Water from these sands is of excellent quality with a natural low hardness concentration and is not subject to surface water influences. Our system is backed up by elevated storage tanks and diesel engines preventing widespread service outages if electrical service is interrupted.

Public Water Supply ID # 1033005

We welcome your input into decisions affecting your drinking water service.

Please call us at: (225) 925-2011,  
or write to us at:

Baton Rouge Water Company  
Post Office Box 96016  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896-9016

Our office location is:  
8755 Goodwood Blvd (near Woman's Hospital)  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806-7916

Our office hours are:  
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM  
Monday through Friday, Except Holidays

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is also available on the world wide web at

[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).  
Our report is available at  
[www.batonrougewater.com](http://www.batonrougewater.com)

Member: National Association of Water Companies

BRWC

# Report to Consumers on Water Quality —2009—



## Is our water safe to drink? **Absolutely!**

Baton Rouge Water Company is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. This twelfth annual water quality report for the monitoring period of January 1 to December 31, 2009, shows the source of our water, lists the results of the most recent positive tests done on our water in accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, and contains important information about water and health. We at Baton Rouge Water Company are happy to show you how we've surpassed water-quality standards. Our Source Water Assessment, for which we have a susceptibility ranking of medium by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, is available for review in our offices during normal business hours.

## EPA Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. US Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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.

As previously stated, our drinking water is drawn from wells which are not under the influence of surface water. Other sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and springs.

As water travels over the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and 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:

(a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(b) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(c) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

(d) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

(e) 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## What Does the Table Mean?

The table on the back page is the most important part of this report. It was prepared in strict accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR): Consumer Confidence Reports (40 CFR 141 and 142). All testing was done by the Department of Health and Hospitals, State of Louisiana; by the USEPA; or by EPA or State certified laboratories. Information on contaminants reported in the table include the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the highest level detected in any sample, the range of levels detected, the usual sources of such contamination as determined by EPA, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. The data in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations. 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. Several important definitions are:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.

**Action Level or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. We do not exceed the action level for any contaminant.

**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 control of microbial contaminants.

**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.

Contaminant	Date	Violation	Unit <sup>1</sup>	MCL (AL)	MCL G	Range of Detects		Major Sources <sup>2</sup>
						Lowest	Highest	
Alpha Emitters	7-14-08	NO	pCi/L	15	0	ND	3.1	Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2007	NO	ppm	(1.3)	SMCL	ND	.1 <sup>3</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	7-20-09	NO	ppb	6	0	ND	.81	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
Fluoride	12-7-09	NO	ppm	4	<sup>2</sup> SMCL	.1	.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	2007	NO	ppb	(15)	0	ND	3 <sup>3</sup>	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Monthly Total Coliform Bacteria	6-23-09	NO	%	5	0	0	1.09 <sup>5</sup>	Naturally present in the environment.
	9-22-09	NO	%	5	0	0	.55 <sup>4</sup>	
E.Coli	6-23-09	NO	-	- <sup>6</sup>	0	0	2 <sup>5</sup>	Human and animal fecal waste.
Trihalomethane Total <sup>7</sup>	8-27-08	NO	ppb	80	0	0	0	By– Products of water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids <sup>7</sup>	8-27-08	NO	ppb	60	0	0	0	By– Products of water chlorination.

Notes to accompany table:

<sup>1</sup> “Units” have been modified from the traditional MCL reporting units of mg/l to units which provide detected level numbers greater than one (1). This has been done to comply with the EPA requirements for this report. Use caution when comparing detected levels in this table to MCLs listed elsewhere.

<sup>2</sup> “Major Sources” were taken verbatim from the EPA regulation. We have no data to indicate there are any local/manmade sources of these contaminants in our water.

<sup>3</sup> The level reported as “Highest Detect” for lead and copper is actually the 90th percentile result per the NPDWR. One sample exceeded the action level for lead.

<sup>4</sup> Represents one sample in the month of September out of 180 samples taken monthly. The required retake samples were negative.

<sup>5</sup> Two samples out of 180 samples taken in the month of June tested fecal positive/coliform positive.

The required 6 sample retakes were negative.

<sup>6</sup> MCL: A Routine Sample and a Repeat Sample are Total Coliform Positive, and One is also Fecal Positive/E. Coli Positive.

<sup>7</sup> These results are for samples taken in 2008 to comply with primary drinking water regulations. An explanation of the lack of 2009 results, as well as results of sampling in January 2010 can be found on the following pages.

(AL = Action Level; MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level; MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; SMCL=Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level; ND = Not Detected; pCi/L = Pico curies per liter; ppm = parts per million = milligrams per liter; ppb = parts per billion = micrograms per liter.)

Required Health Effect Language

Fecal coliforms and E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

**Note 7 to Contaminant Table, continued**

Contaminant	Date	Unit	Violation	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detects		Major Sources
						Lowest	Highest	
Trihalomethane	1-27-10	ppb	No	80	0	0	0	By– Products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	1-27-10	ppb	No	60	0	0	1	By– Products of drinking water chlorination

Water companies are required under federal law to sample routinely the water distributed in their systems. In Louisiana, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) collects a fee from every water customer and is required by State law to perform all required sampling, provided funding is available. Since Hurricane Katrina, the DHH has not had adequate funding for all the required sampling and has notified water companies that the responsibility for certain sampling would fall to the company. We received no such notice during 2009.

Neither DHH nor our company sampled for Disinfection by Products (DBP) during the period May 1 through September 30, 2009. This failure to sample resulted in the company, along with sixty other water companies in Louisiana, being issued a “Monitoring and Reporting Violation”, the result of which is that we must issue this public notice to you.

The fact is the high quality of our water, and the process we use to treat it, does not form the disinfection byproducts that DHH or we should have sampled for, so the failure to sample in no way affects the quality of your water service.

While the quality of the water we distributed last year is not, and never was, in doubt, we are required by federal and state regulation to include the following language in this notice because samples were not taken timely:

“We are required to monitor your drinking water for disinfection byproducts, total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids-five (HAA5) every calendar quarter. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the monitoring period of **May 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009**, the **Baton Rouge Water Company** did not monitor for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids-five (HAA5), therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This violation occurred because of the failure to collect the required samples for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids-five (HAA5) from the water system’s distribution system. Necessary action has been taken to prevent this violation from recurring.”

The water you drink has never been unsafe or harmful in any way. We work around the clock to provide you with the best quality water, which meets all national primary drinking water standards. We will henceforth be sampling every quarter for both HAA5 and TTHM until such time as our regulators permit us to reduce monitoring, once again, to once per year.