

**PIEDMONT UTILITIES DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF PIEDMONT, ALABAMA**

**ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT-2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process, protect our water resources, and to ensure the quality of your water. This report provides background information on your water system and presents water quality data for the year 2023.

**WATER SOURCE**

We now have two water sources one water source is Ladiga Creek, a stream formed from limestone springs east of Highway 278 East. The second water source is our New well we put in service August of 2020. It is located on Sports Complex Rd. The new well is capable of pumping 200 gallons per minute, we will use this well as a back up to our filter plant. A Source Water Assessment (SWA) for Ladiga Creek and the springs was completed in 2002 the one for the new well was completed in 2020 and both were approved by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The Source Water Assessment is a study to define the recharge areas to our water sources and helps us better protect your drinking water. In addition, the City of Piedmont completed a Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan in 2004 to keep your water safe and secure.

**TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

The City of Piedmont has been providing water to citizens in the area since 1898. Components of the original system have been completely replaced. The current Piedmont Utilities Department was first incorporated back in 1948 to ensure a safe, dependable source of water to every home in the area. As of the end of 2021, we were serving approximately 2,727 homes and businesses.

The water from Ladiga Creek is pumped to our Water Treatment Plant for treatment, which includes adding chlorine for disinfection, aluminum sulfate for coagulation and sedimentation, and soda ash for pH control. Next the water flows through a flocculator and two settling basins. The flocculator has recently been upgraded. The water is then filtered through four multi-media filters. Then the finished water is pumped to you. All of the materials and equipment used in the process of treating and distributing water to you has been approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). The NSF has a general information phone number you can call to get more information (800-673-6275).

In the event of power failure, the Piedmont Water Treatment Plant and the pumps have standby power generation at the creek, which has 100% production capacity.

The Water Treatment Plant has received the **“Best Operated Plant”** award in Alabama eight times in the last 16 years and **“The Safe Drinking Water Excellence Award”** in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV (8 states) in 1993 and 2000. The plant is adequately staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by four State Certified Grade IV operators.

The Piedmont Utility Department currently maintains the following:

- Water Mains in Service – 106 Miles
- Sewer Mains in Service – 28 Miles
- Gas Mains in Service – 76 Miles
- Water Storage Tanks – 3
- Water Storage Capacity – 2.3 Million Gallons
- Water Treatment Capacity – 2.25 Million Gallons per Day
- Water Booster Pump Stations – 7
- Public Fire Hydrants – 389
- Sewage Treatment Capacity – 1.55 Million Gallons per Day

We routinely complete a water storage facility inspection plan, and utilize a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan and a Cross Connection Policy to ensure safe drinking water for our customers.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Our system is governed by a Piedmont City Council. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first & third Tuesday of every month. The meeting is held at the Municipal Complex beginning at 6:00 P.M.

The Council Members are:

**Mayor: Bill Baker**

**City Clerk: Carl Hinton**

**Council Members:**

**John Lawrence, Richard Williams, Jubal Fezell, Caleb Pope, Greg South, David Ivey & Terry Kiser**

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, please contact:

**Mr. Byrian Watts, Superintendent**

**P.O. Box 229 – 128 South Center Ave., Piedmont, Alabama 36272**

**Phone: (256) 447-3560 Fax: (256) 447-9067 E-Mail: [abwatts@piedmontcity.org](mailto:abwatts@piedmontcity.org)**

We are also members of the American Water Works Association, Alabama Rural Water Association, Water

Environment Federation, Alabama Water Pollution and Control Association, Alabama Natural Gas Association, and Municipal Distributors Group of Alabama.

## **WATER QUALITY DATA FOR 2023**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Your Local Water officials vigilantly safeguard Piedmont water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. This section describes our water quality and what it means.

Piedmont Utilities Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, or from the most recent sampling prior to 2012 (ADEM does not require us to monitor for all constituents every year). Although we are only required to report those constituents that were detected, we are including a list of all the tests that we ran to give you an idea of the extensive testing that is done to ensure the

quality of your water. The shaded rows indicate constituents that were detected, although they are all below the regulatory levels. Please note that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The lab data are presented in eight tables, grouped according to EPA requirements. In these tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Not Required (NR)* – laboratory analysis not required.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

*Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)* - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

*Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)* - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

*Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)* - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

*Action Level (AL)* - the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

*Treatment Technique (TT)* - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

Our monitoring results are shown in the table on the following pages.

# Table of Primary Contaminants

At high levels some primary contaminants are known to pose a health risks to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
<b>Bacteriological</b>			Endothall(ppb)	100	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	1.67%*	Endrin(ppb)	2	ND
Turbidity	TT	0.125	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	0	ND	Ethylbenzene(ppb)	700	ND
Fecal Indicators (enterococci or coliphage)	None	ND	Ethylene dibromide(ppt)	50	ND
<b>Radiological</b>			Glyphosate(ppb)	700	ND
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Haloacetic Acids(ppb)	60	11.34
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	2.73	Heptachlor(ppt)	400	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	0.641	Heptachlor epoxide(ppt)	200	ND
Uranium(pci/l)	30	ND	Hexachlorobenzene(ppb)	1	ND
<b>Inorganic</b>			Hexachlorocyclopentadiene(ppm)	50	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Lindane(ppt)	200	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND	Methoxychlor(ppb)	40	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate](ppb)	200	ND
Barium (ppm)	2000	19.0	Pentachlorophenol(ppb)	1	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Picloram(ppb)	500	ND
Bromate(ppb)	10	ND	PCBs(ppt)	500	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	Simazine(ppb)	4	ND
Chloramines(ppm)	4	ND	Styrene(ppb)	100	ND
Chlorine(ppm)	4	1.5	Tetrachloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Chlorine dioxide(ppb)	800	ND	Toluene(ppm)	1	ND
Chlotite(ppm)	1	ND	TOC	TT	0.19
Chromium (ppb)	100	ND	TTHM(ppb)	80	12.13
Copper (ppm) (2023)	AL=1.3	0.056	Toxaphene(ppb)	3	ND
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)(ppb)	50	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene(ppb)	70	ND
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane(ppb)	200	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.92	Trichloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	Vinyl Chloride(ppb)	2	ND
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	0.92	Xylenes(ppm)	10	ND
Selenium(ppb)	50	ND			
Thallium(ppb)	2	ND			
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>					
Acrylamide	TT	ND			
Alachlor(ppb)	2	ND			
Atrazine(ppb)	3	ND			

Benzene(ppbv)	5	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs](ppt)	200	ND
Carbofuran(ppb)	40	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride(ppb)	5	ND
Chlordane(ppb)	2	ND
Chlorobenzene(ppb)	100	ND
2,4-D	70	ND
Dalapon(ppb)	200	ND
Dibromochloropropane(ppt)	200	ND
0-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	600	ND
p-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	75	ND
1,2-Dichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND
1,1-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	7	ND
Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	70	ND
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	100	ND
Dichloromethane(ppb)	5	ND
1,2-Dichloropropane(ppb)	5	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate(ppb)	400	ND
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates(ppb)	6	ND
Dinoseb(ppb)	7	ND
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD](ppq)	30	ND
Diquat(ppb)	20	ND

\*2 positive bacti samples out of 120 yearly samples were positive for coliform all repeat samples taken were coliform absent.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Please note the sampling frequency of each of these constituents varies, and the range represents the low and high concentrations detected during the sampling events.

## Secondary Contaminants

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply.

### Explanation for reasons for variance/exemption

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

The tables below list 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 these tables is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or ADEM requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

**Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants**

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range			Amount Detected		Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Turbidity	0	TT				0.125	NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Radiological Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Combined Radium 226 & 228 (2020)	0	5	0	-	ND	0.366 ± 0.349	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Barium	2000	2000	13.0	-	25.00	19.0	ppb	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.0	-	2.0	1.5	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (2023)	1.3	AL=1.3	No. of Sites above action level 0			0.056	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (2023)	0	AL=15	No. of Sites above action level 0			ND	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as N)	10	10	0.56	-	1.1	0.92	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	10	0.56	-	1.1	0.92	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	N/A	TT				.125	NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Organic Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N/A	60	ND	-	27.0	11.34	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N/A	TT	ND	-	0.57	0.19	ppm	Naturally present in the environment
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0	80	ND	-	31.0	12.13	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Secondary Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Aluminum	N/A	0.2	ND	-	0.048	0.024	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives
Chloride	N/A	250	ND	-	5.1	2.55	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Iron	N/A	0.3	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits

Manganese	N/A	0.05	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Odor	N/A	3	ND	-	ND	ND	T.O.N.	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sulfate	N/A	250	ND	-	10.8	5.4	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Dissolved Solids	N/A	500	122	-	135	128.5	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Zinc	N/A	5	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Special Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Calcium	N/A	N/A	25.8	-	28.4	27.1	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	N/A	17.4	-	20.4	18.9	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	N/A	N/A	13.4	-	14.4	13.9	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	N/A	N/A	7.4	-	7.6	7.5	SU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	N/A	N/A	ND	-	ND	ND	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Specific Conductance	N/A	<500	238.0	-	282.0	260.0	umhos	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	ND	-	10.8	5.4	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Alkalinity	N/A	N/A	106.00	-	110.00	108.67	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	N/A	N/A	119.0	-	130.0.0	124.5	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
<b>Unregulated Contaminants January - December 2023</b>								
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	6.0	3.03	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Chloroform	N/A	N/A	ND	-	23.0	8.3	ppb	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff; by-product of chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	N/A	ND	-	1.80	0.71	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment

Note: Analytical results are from the last test performed, and were not necessarily tested in 2022.

PFAS Compounds								
CONTAMINANT	RESULTS	UNITS	CONTAMINANT	RESULTS	UNITS	CONTAMINANT	RESULTS	UNITS
11Cl-PF3OUdS	ND	ug/L	Perfluorodecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
9Cl-PF3ONS	ND	ug/L	Perfluorohexanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorotetradecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
ADONA	ND	ug/L	Perfluorododecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorotridecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
HFPO-DA	ND	ug/L	Perfluoroheptanoic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluoroundecanoic Acid	ND	ug/L
NEIFOSAA	ND	ug/L	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L	Total PFAs	ND	ug/L
NMeFOSAA	ND	ug/L	Perfluorononanoic Acid	ND	ug/L			ug/L
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	ND	ug/L			ug/L

### GENERAL INFORMATION

*The Piedmont Utilities Board has incurred a synthetic organic compound (SOC) reporting non-compliance. The non-compliance resulted from a failure to submit in the January 2020- December 2022 monitoring period.*

*ADEM Admin. Coder. 335-7-2-.20(1)(a) states, "the supplier of water shall report to the Department the results of any test, measurement or analysis within the first 10 days following the month in which the result is received or the first 10 days following the end of the required monitoring period as stipulated by the Department, whichever is shortest." The SOC result was submitted by the lab to the department via eDWR on April 21,2023. Since the result was not submitted by January 10,2023 deadline, the system has incurred a reporting violation.*

**Total Coliform:** The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter 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 done 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. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

#### What does this mean?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds



all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected.

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 activities.

As noted before, all 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or by visiting their website at <http://www.epa.gov>.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Center of Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. All Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

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. The Piedmont Utilities Department 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>.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office if you have questions.