

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

**ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT-2009**

**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 safe and 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 2009.

**WATER SOURCE**

Our water source is Ladiga Creek, a stream formed from limestone springs east of Highway 278 East. A Source Water Assessment (SWA) for Ladiga Creek and the springs was completed in 2002 and 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 2009, we were serving approximately 2,800 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 and, fluoride is added for the prevention of tooth decay. 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 five 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 Millions Gallons per Day
- Water Booster Pump Stations – 7
- Public Fire Hydrants – 388
- 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: Brian Young**

**City Clerk: Michelle**

**Council Members:**

**John Lawrence, Mary Bramblett, Edward Hanson, Kenney Kelley Eddie Baldwin, Bill Baker & Brent Morrison**

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

**Mr. Robert Lee Young, General Manager**

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

**Phone: (256) 447-9066 Fax: (256) 447-9067 E-Mail: lee.young@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 2009**

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. During [April 2009 thru January 2010], we "did not monitor or test" or "did not complete all monitoring or testing" for [Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts], and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. The Piedmont Utilities Department was monitoring for Disinfection Byproducts under the Stage 1 monitoring plan. The Stage 2 plan requires monitoring in additional locations for the same contaminants. 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>, 2009, or from the most recent sampling prior to 2009 (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 that your water is safe. 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:

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*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%	ND	Endrin(ppb)	2	ND
Turbidity	TT	1.23	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Fecal Coliform & E. coli	0	ND	Ethylbenzene(ppb)	700	ND
<b>Radiological</b>			Ethylene dibromide(ppt)	50	ND
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Glyphosate(ppb)	700	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	0.50	Haloacetic Acids(ppb)	60	21.05
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	Heptachlor(ppt)	400	ND
Uranium(pci/l)	30	ND	Heptachlor epoxide(ppt)	200	ND
<b>Inorganic</b>			Hexachlorobenzene(ppb)	1	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene(ppm)	50	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND	Lindane(ppt)	200	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	Methoxychlor(ppb)	40	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate](ppb)	200	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Pentachlorophenol(ppb)	1	ND
Bromate(ppb)	10	ND	Picloram(ppb)	500	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	PCBs(ppt)	500	ND
Chloramines(ppm)	4	ND	Simazine(ppb)	4	ND
Chlorine(ppm)	4	4.20	Styrene(ppb)	100	ND
Chlorine dioxide(ppb)	800	ND	Tetrachloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Chlotite(ppm)	1	ND	Toluene(ppm)	1	ND
Chromium (ppb)	100	ND	TOC	TT	3.00
Copper (ppm) (2008)	AL=1.3	0.13	TTHM(ppb)	80	17.96
Cyanide (ppb)	200	ND	Toxaphene(ppb)	3	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.89	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)(ppb)	50	ND
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene(ppb)	70	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane(ppb)	200	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	0.89	1,1,2-Trichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	Trichloroethylene(ppb)	5	ND
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	ND	Vinyl Chloride(ppb)	2	ND
Selenium(ppb)	50	ND	Xylenes(ppm)	10	ND
Thallium(ppb)	2	ND	0-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	600	ND
<b>Organic Chemicals</b>			p-Dichlorobenzene(ppb)	75	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	1,2-Dichloroethane(ppb)	5	ND
Alachlor(ppb)	2	ND	1,1-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	7	ND
Atrazine(ppb)	3	ND	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	70	ND
Benzene(ppbv)	5	ND	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene(ppb)	100	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs](ppt)	200	ND	Dichloromethane(ppb)	5	ND
Carbofuran(ppb)	40	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane(ppb)	5	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride(ppb)	5	ND	Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate(ppb)	400	ND
Chlordane(ppb)	2	ND	Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthlates(ppb)	6	ND
Chlorobenzene(ppb)	100	ND	Dinoseb(ppb)	7	ND

2,4-D	70	ND	Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD](ppq)	30	ND
Dalapon(ppb)	200	ND	Diquat(ppb)	20	ND
Dibromochloropropane(ppt)	200	ND			

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.

<b>Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants</b>								
CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range			Amount Detected		Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants      January - December 2009</b>								
Turbidity	0	TT				1.23	NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Radiological Contaminants      January - December 2009</b>								
Alpha emitters (2003)	0	15				0.50	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants      January - December 2009</b>								
Chlorine	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	2.90	-	4.20	4.20	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (2007)	1.3	AL=1.3	No. of Sites above action level 0			0.13	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4	0.89	-	0.89	0.89	ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as N)	10	10	0.89	-	0.89	0.89	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Turbidity	N/A	TT				1.23	NTU	Soil runoff
<b>Organic Contaminants      January - December 2009</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N/A	60	7.18	-	52.30	21.05	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N/A	TT	ND	-	3.00	3.00	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0	80	5.85	-	35.50	17.96	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Secondary Contaminants January - December 2009</b>								
Chloride	N/A	250	7.88	-	7.88	7.88	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Manganese	N/A	0.05	13.20	-	13.20	13.20	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (2008)	N/A	250	14.20	-	14.20	14.20	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Dissolved Solids	N/A	500	172.00	-	172.00	172.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Special Contaminants January - December 2009</b>								
Calcium	N/A	N/A	27.50	-	27.50	27.50	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	N/A	66.40	-	66.40	66.40	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	N/A	N/A	7.66	-	7.66	7.66	SU	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sodium	N/A	N/A	1.61	-	1.61	1.61	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Specific Conductance	N/A	<500	316.00	-	316.00	316.00	umhos	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
Sulfate	N/A	N/A	14.20	-	14.20	14.20	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment
Total Alkalinity	N/A	N/A	65.00	-	118.00	118.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	N/A	N/A	123.00	-	123.00	123.00	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
<b>Unregulated Contaminants January - December 2009</b>								
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	N/A	1.17	-	4.80	2.99	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	4.68	-	31.30	17.99	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	0.90	ppm	Naturally occurring in the environment

Note: Analytical results are from the last test performed, and were not necessarily tested in 2009.

### **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 EPA has determined that your water **IS SAFE** at these levels.

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.

