

# THE WATER WE DRINK

## Gretna Waterworks - Public Water Supply ID: LA1051003

### Annual Report for 2010

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2010. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and the services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). 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 and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is listed below:

Source Name: Surface Water Raw Intake – Source Location: Mississippi River – Source Type: Surface Water – Source ID: 1051003-001

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottle 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 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources, through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of "HIGH". If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at the number provided in the following paragraph.

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 water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. **We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements.** We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, please call the Gretna Waterworks at 504-363-1540.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals – Office of Public Health routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. 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.

In the tables below, 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:

- 1 **Maximum contaminant level (MCL)** – MCL is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- 2 **Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG)** – the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known risk.
- 3 **Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL)** – the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- 4 **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG)** – the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk.
- 5 **Parts per billion (ppb)** – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- 6 **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.
- 7 **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – measure of radioactivity in water.
- 8 **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – measure of cloudiness of water
- 9 **Treatment technique (TT)** – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- 10 **Action level (AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

In the table that follows, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected at levels BELOW their maximum contaminant level. These samples, except for Lead and Copper results and surface water systems, were collected at the raw water source and represent water before any treatment, blending or distribution. As such, the consumer tap levels could be less. Chemical

Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Contaminant: **Copper** – Sampling Period: 2008 - 2010/ Level: **0.5** 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile / Level: **0.5** 95<sup>th</sup> Percentile / Sites over AL **0** / MCL: AL= 1.3 / Unit: ppm / Major Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Contaminant: **Total Nitrate and Nitrite** – Sampling Date: 2/15/2010 / Highest Value: **1** / Range: **1** / MCL: 10 / MCLG: 10 / Unit: ppm  
Typical or Major Sources: Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Contaminant: **Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Adipate** – Sampling Date: 2/15/2010 / Highest Value: 0.65 / Range: 0.65 / Unit: ppb / MCL 400 / MCLG 400 / Major Sources: Discharge from chemical factories.

Contaminant: **Di (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate** – Sampling Date: 2/15/2010 / Highest Value: 0.85 / Range: 0.85 / Unit: ppb / MCL 6 / MCLG 0 / Major Sources: Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

Contaminant: **Fluoride** – Sampling Date: 2/15/2010 / Highest Value: **0.6** / Range: **0.6** / Unit: ppm / MCL 4 / MCLG 4 /  
Major Sources: Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from Factories; Water additive which promotes strong teeth

Contaminant: **Lead** - Sampling Period: 2008 - 2010 / Level: **5** 90<sup>th</sup> percentile / Level: **12** 95<sup>th</sup> percentile / Sites over AL **1** / MCL: 15 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb / Major Sources: Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant: Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products Rule Monitoring / **Haloacetic Acid (HAA)** / Monitoring Period 4/1/2009-3/31/2010 / **RAA 36.9 / Range 11.5-68.4** / MCL: 60 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb / Major Sources: By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant: Stage 1 Disinfection By-Products Rule Monitoring / **TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes)** / Monitoring Period 4/1/2009 – 3/31/2010 / **RAA 61.9 / Range 28.3-104.36** / MCL: 80 / MCLG: 0 / Unit: ppb / Major Sources: By-product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminant: **Turbidity** - Sampling Date: 1/10/2010 / Highest Level: **0.16** / MCL: TT = 1 / Range: 0.04-0.16 / MCLG: n/a / Unit: NTU

Contaminant: **Turbidity** - Date: (Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting less than 95%) **None** (All Samples in Each Month Were = to 100%) / MCL: TT=0.3 NTU (in 95% of samples) / MCLG: n/a / Unit: %

Note: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The major sources of turbidity include soil runoff.

**During the period covered by this report we had NO violations of drinking water regulations.**

Our water system tested a minimum of 20 monthly sample(s) in accordance with Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, we had no noted detections for microbiological contaminants or radionuclides.

**Environmental Protection Agency Required Health Effects Language:** 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. Gretna Waterworks 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>. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for 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 and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Also, some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 the City of Gretna continues to make to make improvements to better serve our customers. Please call our office if you have questions (504-363-1540).

We at the Gretna Waterworks work around the clock to provide drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and children's future.