

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
GA2110003 RUTLEDGE WATER SYSTEM

**Annual Water Quality Report: January 1 - December 31,
2024**

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Name R I C K Y B L E V I N S

Phone 7 0 6 - 5 5 7 - 2 2 2 3

RUTLEDGE WATER SYSTEM is Ground Water (GW)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe.
Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Sources of Drinking Water

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 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.

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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 the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. 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* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. We 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>. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women.

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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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 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>.

For residents seeking more information about their water quality or other community concerns, involvement in local governance can be an invaluable resource. One way to stay informed is by attending regular city council meetings. These meetings provide a platform to discuss critical issues, including source water assessments and ongoing water quality projects. They are held on the third Tuesday of each month at City Hall, located at 105 Newborn Road, Rutledge, Georgia.

Source Water Information

SWA = Source Water Assessment

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
169 NUNNALLY ST/1-278 WELL # 105	GW	<u>Not in Operatio</u>	_____
4290 HWY 278-MADISON WATER SYSTEM	SW	<u>Not in operation</u>	_____
456 WEST MAIN ST WELL # 106	GW	<u>Not in operation</u>	_____
1310 FEARS ROAD - WELL # 8 SOURCE # 109	GW	<u>Running</u>	_____

2024 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2024	1.3	1.3	0.078	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2024	1	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	03/13/2023	0.25	0.25 - 0.25	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.	2024	9	0 - 8.5	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2024	2	0 - 2.08	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2024	3.38	0-3.38	0	15	Pci/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:

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.

Level 1 Assessment:

A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

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.

Level 2 Assessment:

A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:

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 or MRDLG:

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.

na:

not applicable.

mrem:

millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Required Lead Language in Water Contaminant Regulations

Ensuring safe drinking water is a fundamental public health priority, and regulatory agencies have established specific guidelines and communication protocols to manage and mitigate risks associated with contaminants in water. Among these measures is the inclusion of required lead language in public communications and reports, which is essential for educating and informing consumers about lead contamination and safety measures.

What Is Required Lead Language?

Required lead language refers to standardized text mandated by regulatory authorities, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States, to be included in water quality reports and notifications. This language ensures that consumers receive clear, consistent, and accurate information regarding lead contamination, its potential health effects, and the steps that can be taken to reduce exposure.

Purpose of Required Lead Language

The primary goals of including required lead language are:

- **Transparency:** To provide consumers with accessible information about the presence of lead in their drinking water.
- **Health Awareness:** To educate the public on the adverse health effects of lead exposure, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant individuals.
- **Actionable Guidance:** To inform consumers about measures they can take, such as flushing taps or using certified filters, to minimize lead exposure.
- **Compliance:** To ensure that water suppliers adhere to federal and state regulations governing water safety and consumer communication.

Examples of Required Lead Language

The specific wording of required lead language can vary depending on the context and regulatory requirements. However, examples often include:

- "Lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children."
- "If present, elevated levels of lead can cause developmental delays in children, kidney problems, and high blood pressure in adults."
- "To reduce lead exposure, run your water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking."

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)

The Lead and Copper Rule, established by the EPA in 1991, sets action levels for lead in drinking water and outlines monitoring, reporting, and public education requirements. Under the LCR, water systems are required to:

- Include lead-specific educational materials in annual Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs).
- Notify consumers if lead levels exceed the action threshold of 15 parts per billion (ppb).
- Provide guidance on reducing lead exposure and accessing alternative water sources.

Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)

Water suppliers must prepare and distribute annual CCRs, which contain information on contaminants, including lead. The reports are required to use non-technical language and include health advisories if lead levels exceed safe limits.

The Service line inventory (SLI) is a requirement under the lead and copper rule revisions (LCRR) to help water systems identify and replace lead service lines. It mandates that all water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials to assess the presence of lead to protect public health. The inventory will support proactive lead reduction efforts and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements to minimize lead exposure in drinking water. For more information you can go to [https: Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/lead/basic-information-about-lead-in-drinking-water) or contact Water operator Ricky Blevins at Rutledge City Hall 706-557-2223

For Service Line Inventory Information: Information regarding water service lines to City of Rutledge Water customers such as materials installed from the tap to the building wall. Contact water operator Ricky Blevins at Rutledge City Hall 706-557-2223

Violations Table

Public Notification Rule			
The public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g. boil water emergency).			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation explanation
Public Notice Rule Linked to Violation	05/21/2021	2024	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers about a violation of the drinking water regulations
Nitrate and nitrite (measured as Nitrogen)			
Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate and nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if left untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, routine major	01/01/2024	03/31/2024	See below

In April 2023, the state informed Rutledge that the nitrate level in the Nunnally St wells exceeded half of the MCL. The well was operating minimally and, combined with the Fears Rd well's clean output, made the contaminant level negligible. We shut down the Nunnally St well then, and it has remained inactive. It is listed on the CCR as we explore solutions for the nitrate issue with our water and engineering team. We initially stopped testing the well after shutting it down and disconnecting it from the system. It was at this time the state issued a violation

Testing resumed as required by the state while the permit was valid.

