


CONSERVE WATER

Be part of the solution



DAY	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADDRESS	even		odd	even	odd	even	odd
TIME	watering permitted between the hours of midnight & 2PM						

Water Conservation Ordinance is in effect May 1 through September 30

LUS has been leading an effort to create the Chicot Aquifer Stakeholder (CASH) Group, to be a resource for state agencies that have the responsibility for managing this precious resource. **CASH is composed of groups that have a stake in the aquifer's protection and preservation.** Louisiana state law provides for the creation of such groups to assist the Groundwater Management Commission is carrying out its duties.

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

The LUS water source is the Chicot Aquifer, a large, natural underground "lake" in southwest Louisiana. It is a stable, plentiful, and protected fresh water supply. Once water reaches the plants, it is cleaned through a three-stage process that includes (1) softening, (2) filtering and (3) disinfecting before it reaches your tap.

As part of the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality conducted an assessment of LUS' water sources. The purpose of that assessment was to determine what sources, if any, are vulnerable to contamination from surface sources. The program considers well age and construction, location of the well in relation to potential sources of contamination, and actual test data. According to the report, the LUS water system had a susceptibility rating of 'medium'. This analysis is used in comparison with other water systems in the state to establish priorities and protection activities. LUS' SWAP report is available for review by contacting Don Broussard, your Water Operations Manager at (337) 291-5901.



Frequently Asked Questions about the Chicot Aquifer

1

Where is the Chicot Aquifer?

The Chicot Aquifer is located under all or parts of 15 parishes in southwestern Louisiana and parts of east Texas.

2

Who uses the aquifer?

The aquifer is the source of drinking water for virtually every person living in southwest Louisiana. It also serves as the primary water supply for most commercial, industrial, institutional and agricultural uses.

3

How much water is used daily?

Recent data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that more than 800 million gallons of water are withdrawn from the aquifer on an average day.



Water Quality Report

(Testing conducted in 2007)

Monitored Before Any Treatment

Substance	Major Source in Drinking Water	EPA Designated Contaminant Level	EPA Designated Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	LUS Maximum
Atrazine	Run off from herbicide used on row crops	3 ppb	3 ppb	0.281 ppb
Barium	Discharge from drinking wastes Discharge from metal refineries Erosion of natural deposits	2 ppb	2 ppb	0.184 ppm
Fluoride	Erosion of natural deposits	4 ppb	4 ppb	0.26 ppb



Monitored In The Water Distribution System

Substance	Major Source in Drinking Water	EPA Designated Contaminant Level	EPA Designated Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	LUS Maximum
Coliform	Naturally present in the environment	No more than 5% positive monthly samples	–	3.88% positive in one month
E. Coli	Human and animal fecal waste	Routine sample & repeat sample: total coliform positive; One fecal positive/E. Coli positive	–	1 colony per 100 mls
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	80 ppb	–	11.5 ppb
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	By-product of drinking water chlorination	60 ppb	–	1.4 ppb

Monitored At Customer's Tap

Substance	Major Source in Drinking Water	EPA Designated Action Level (requires treatment) at 90th Percentile	LUS Results at 90th Percentile
Copper	Corrosion of household plumbing	1.3 parts per million	0.02 parts per million or less *
Lead	Corrosion of household plumbing	15 parts per billion	0.3 parts per billion or less *

*No individual sample exceeded the Action Level.

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline

(800-426-4791). Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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

for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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).

OUR COMMITMENT

While producing an average of 20 million gallons per day, LUS has provided safe, clean drinking water for more than 100 years. In fact, **we have never had a single violation of drinking water regulations** and have always strived to plan and execute leading strategies and technologies to bring our customers quality drinking water.

LUS goes beyond simply complying with regulations. We take extra steps to ensure that water delivered to you is safe, good tasting, clean and meets our higher standards.

LUS has planned carefully to provide continuous water service during emergencies. Although not every contingency can be anticipated, we have prepared well to ensure the water utility's survival in emergencies. We recognize that with a continuous water supply in emergencies, critical services such as fire suppression and public health can be maintained.

The following Water Quality Report is a mandate of the Environmental Protection Agency, in compliance with the 1996 amended Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires all community water systems to deliver a brief annual water quality report. This report includes required language that is not suggestive of a problem for LUS customers. We believe this is a great tool for educating and communicating with our customers. As you read through this report, if you need additional information, or would like something clarified, please call Don Broussard, your Water Operations Manager, at (337) 291-5901.

Also, the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority, the group of elected officials who oversee all of LUS operations, meets at 4:30 PM on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the City-Parish Administration Building located at 705 W. University Avenue.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

Maximum Contaminant Level (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.

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

parts per million (ppm)
equivalent to one inch in 15.78 miles or equivalent to one second in 11.57 days

parts per billion (ppb)
equivalent to one inch in 15,783 miles or equivalent to one second in 31.7 years

picocuries per liter (pCi/L)
a measure of radioactivity

WHAT ARE CONTAMINANTS ANYWAY?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels through the ground it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. In some cases water can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity, as well as radioactive materials. Contaminants that may be present in water before any treatment 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 or gas production, mining, or farming.

- **Organic 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.

- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



LOOKING AHEAD

LUS is excited about this opportunity to reach our customers and is always staying abreast of new technologies to better serve you. We urge you to call if you have any questions concerning water quality at (337) 291-5901.