

# Southern Utilities Company – Laird Hill

## 2020 Drinking Water Quality Report

We are pleased to present you with our 2020 Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires us to prepare and deliver this report to you on an annual basis. Southern Utilities is committed to ensuring the quality of your drinking water.

### En Espanol

This report includes important information about your drinking water. To receive a copy of this information or have it translated into Spanish, please call (903) 566-3511.

Este reporte incluye la informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (903) 566 -3511.

## Southern Utilities' drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal (EPA) drinking water requirements.

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the following pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water.

## Where does our drinking water come from?

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water sources in Rusk County. The deep well draws from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. In emergencies, we purchase and resell water from the City of Kilgore which blends within our distribution system. The City of Kilgore, in addition to wells, treats water from Sabine River. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) has been updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system call (903) 566-3511. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following [URL: http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=](http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=). Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following [URL: http://dwww.tceq.texas.gov/DWWW](http://dwww.tceq.texas.gov/DWWW).

## Public Inquiries

If you have any questions about this report or any other issue concerning your water utility, please contact: Scott Pope at (903) 566-3511. We want you to be informed about our water quality. If you want to learn more about opportunities for public participation about decisions that may affect the quality of the water, please call us.

## SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS OR OTHER IMMUNE PROBLEMS

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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).

## About the Attached Tables

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) 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 animal or human activity.

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.

Radioactive 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. The attached tables contain all of the constituents, which have been found in your drinking water for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 unless otherwise noted. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents.

In the following tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not know. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- 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.
- Maximum Residual disinfectant Level Goal (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.
- Maximum Residual disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- 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.
- 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 system on multiple occasions.
- Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant.
- Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Action Level Goal (ALG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - One part per million equals a single penny in \$10,000 or it is about the same as one drop of soda in 35 Big Gulps (32 oz. each).
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - One part per billion corresponds to about one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Highest Running Annual Average (HRA Avg.) - The highest of four values calculated by averaging each quarter's average result with the three (3) previous quarter's average results.
- Million Fibers per liter (MFL) - A measure of asbestos.
- Millirems per year (mrem) - A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in the water.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) - Measure of Turbidity.
- Parts per Trillion (ppt) - Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- Parts per Quadrillion (ppq) - Parts per quadrillion or Picograms per liter

The State of Texas requires us to monitor for some constituent less often than once per year because the concentrations of these constituents do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

**Table 1. Metals and Inorganic Contaminants**

Constituent	Southern Util. Max. Level	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Sources of Constituent
Aluminum (ppm)	0.0078	*0.05	0	Only 1 Sample	2019	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. Byproduct of water treatment.
Barium (ppm)	0.022	2	2	Only 1 Sample	2019	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
Chromium (ppm)	0.003	100	100	Only 1 Sample	2019	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from steel & pulp mills
Fluoride (ppm)	0.18	4	4	Only 1 Sample	**2018	NO	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories.
Manganese (ppb)	0.0039	0.05	0	Only 1 Sample	*2019	NO	Naturally occurring; Discharge from metal factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	0.0282	10	10	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

\* Secondary constituent regulated by the state and not by EPA

\*\* Year of most recent sampling

**Table 2. Disinfection Byproducts & Disinfection Residual**

Constituent	Southern Util. Max. Level	MCL MRDL	MCLG MRDLG	Range of Detection	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Sources of Constituent
Total Trihalomethanes (ppm)	53.2	80	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppm)	38.9	60	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Dichloroacetic Acid	16.3	0	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Bromochloroacetic Acid	4.3	0	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Monochloroacetic Acid	1.4	0	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Trichloroacetic Acid	21.2	0	0	Only 1 Sample	2020	NO	By product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine Disinfectant (ppm)*	1.18	4	4	0.61 – 1.92	2020	NO	Disinfectant used to control <u>microbes</u> .

\* Maximum level determined by the highest running annual average (HRAA)

\*\* Year of most recent sampling

**Table 3. Lead & Copper**

Constituent	Southern Utilities 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	AL	MCLG	Number of sites found above the AL	Sample year	Typical Sources of Constituent
Lead (ppm)	0	15	0	0	*2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper (ppm)	0.377	1.3	1.3	0	*2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives.

\* Year of most recent sampling

**Table 4. Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Constituent	Southern Util. Max. Level	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection	Sample year	Violation	Typical Sources of Constituent
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	0.72	700	700	One Sample	*2020	NO	Discharge from petroleum refineries.
Xylenes (ppm)	0.00595	10	10	One Sample	*2020	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.

## Additional Health Information for Lead

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. This water supply 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>.

Table 5. Unregulated Constituents

Constituent	Southern Util. Max. Level	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detection	Sample Year	Typical Sources of Constituent
Bromodichloromethane (ppm)	5.66	None		1 Sample	2020	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate them.
Chloroform (ppm)	20.2	None		1 Sample	2020	
Dibromochloromethane (ppm)	1.33	None		1 Sample	2020	

## Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron), which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For more information on taste, color, and odor of drinking water, please call us.

Table 6. Violations

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Lead Consumer Notice (LCR)	12/30/2017	10/23/2020	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.

As you can see by Table 6, **our system had one previous violation from 2017**. TCEQ requires that this violation be reported on this report for a specified number of years. **The violation reporting period ended in 2020.**

**As you can see by Tables 1-5, our system had NO violations in 2020.** We are 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. Please call Scott Pope at (903) 566-3511 if you have any questions.

## Water Loss for 2020

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan - Dec 2020, our system lost an estimated 6,761,541 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call Southern Utilities Company, (903) 566-3511.