Athens Utilities Board – 2025 Water Quality Table

Parameter	Units	Year Performed	AUB Result	HUC Result	Regulatory Limit MCL	Goal MCLG	Source
REGULATED AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT							
Turbidity	NTU	2025	0.20	0.33	TT	TT	Soil Runoff. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
Range			0.02 - 0.20	0.02 - 0.33			
Fluoride	ppm	2025	0.45 avg	<0.15	4.0	4.0	Additive that promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Range	ppm		0.42 - 0.47	<0.15 - <0.15			
Nitrate	ppm	2025	1.51	0.332	10.0	10.0	Fertilizer use, septic tanks, erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	2025	<0.05	1.13	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment. We met the Treatment Technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon in 2025.
Range			<0.5 - <0.05	0.72-1.05			
Sodium	ppm	2025	4.8	6.95	-	-	Erosion of natural deposits
REGULATED IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND CUSTOMER TAP							
Total Coliform Bacteria (# positive samples)		2025	0	0	5	n/a	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	2025	42.91	36.3	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		23.2 - 69.1	33.0-36.3			
Haloacetic Acids -5	ppb	2025	36.93	30.7	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Range	ppb		20.3 – 68.6	26.9-30.7			
Chlorine	ppm	2025	1.23 avg.	1.9	MRDL=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Range	ppm		0.5 - 2.2	1.6-2.0			
Lead (90%)	ppb	2024	<2.0	<2.0	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested were above EPA's action level (see special note below)
Range	ppb		All Sites <2.0	All Sites <2.0			
Copper (90%)	ppm	2024	0.27900	0.00422	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing. 0 of the 30 samples tested was above EPA's action level
Range	ppm		0.00303 – 0.51300	<0.001 – 0.00422			
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING							
PFBS	ppb	2024	0.00453	0.0029	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. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.		
Range			<0.001 - 0.0116	<0.001 - 0.0041			
PFBA	ppb	2024	0.0011				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
PFHxS	ppb	2024	0.0011				
Range			<0.001 - 0.0011				
HFPO-DA	ppb	2024	0.002				
Range			<0.001 – 0.002				

The following definitions and explanations may help you understand more fully the data in this table:

- **MCL** – "Maximum Contaminant Level." The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG** – "Maximum Contaminant Level Goal." The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL** – "Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level." The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** – "Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal." 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.
- **ppb** = parts per billion **ppm** = parts per million pCi/L=Picocuries per liter.
- **TT** – "Treatment Technique." A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **NTU** – This stands for "Nephelometric Turbidity Units" and measures the clarity of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The EPA has two requirements: (1) The maximum level found must be less than 1 NTU; and (2) The level must be under 0.3 NTU 95% of the time.
- **HUC** - Hiwassee Utilities Commission – AUB purchases 35% of the water distributed to customers from HUC.
- AUB conducts water quality testing daily and has tested your water for many substances not included in the table such as pesticides, herbicides, metals, and solvents. None of these substances were detected using prescribed EPA analytical methods.

Special Note: 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. Athens Utilities Board is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home 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.

Special Note: 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.

Feel free to share this information with others who drink AUB water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can post this notice in a public place or distribute copies by hand or mail.

Athens Utilities Board
2025 Water Quality Report

(Data Table on Back)

AUB's Water Division provides water in the city of Athens and McMinn County. The water we delivered in 2025 surpassed the strict regulations of the state of Tennessee and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions, contact Boone Walker, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, at (423) 745-4501.

AUB board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM. You can get on the agenda by calling AUB at least one week prior to the meeting.

Where Does AUB's Water Come From?

AUB obtains drinking water from three sources: a spring that has been in use for decades; three wells that tap an aquifer in the Oostanaula Creek basin, and; the Hiwassee River via purchases of treated water from the Hiwassee Utilities Commission (HUC). Water from the spring and wells is pumped to AUB's filter plant where state-licensed operators work 365 days a year to provide water that surpasses all state and national water-quality standards.

AUB has a Wellhead Protection Plan, available for review at our office, upon request. Further, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program Report for untreated water sources. The report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources are rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible, or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. AUB's rating is reasonably susceptible. For an explanation of the Tennessee Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings, and to see TDEC's report to EPA, go to https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html or contact AUB to obtain a copy of our assessment.

Information About Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, springs, and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Below are some examples:

- 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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 and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations that limit the concentration of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish similar limits on contaminants in bottled water. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

To ensure top water quality, AUB operators have collected samples and tested your water for a variety of chemicals and contaminants. Those that were detected are listed in the Water Quality Table of this report. The table describes the existing EPA/TDEC maximum contaminant level (MCL), maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG), AUB and HUC results, and potential sources from where the contaminants originated.

Information About Lead

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. AUB is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact AUB's Boone Walker at (423) 745-4501. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize

exposure is available at: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Health effects of exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Additional information about the health effects of lead can be found at:
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

AUB has completed and submitted an initial Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) in accordance with requirements established by the EPA. This inventory identifies the material of service lines connected to our distribution system. Based on our completed inventory, we have identified no lead service lines to date. Consumers may review the Lead Service Line Inventory by contacting Boone Walker at (423) 745-4501.

Special Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found in drinking water than others. Individuals with weakened immune systems, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS, 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 also available at EPA's hotline telephone number.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. and comes from animal waste and runoff. When ingested, it can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Cryptosporidium can be eliminated by an effective treatment combination including coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. As part of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, AUB and HUC analyzed their source (untreated) water. AUB's samples resulted in zero detections of cryptosporidium out of twelve samples. HUC's samples resulted in seven detections out of twelve samples of their untreated water. AUB does not purchase any untreated water from HUC, only treated water. For more information on Cryptosporidium, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).