

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- 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 agricultural, urban stormwater 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 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 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.

### **INFORMATION ON 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. The City of Alcoa 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>.

As shown in the table, the Alcoa Water system had no violations during 2011, meeting or exceeding all Federal and State requirements. The maximum contaminant levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

All 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 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 Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of our water is welcomed at the Alcoa City Commission meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. If you have any questions or need additional copies of this report please contact Ken Reynolds, Alcoa Water Plant Supervisor, at 865-380-4921.

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

New Service.....380-4700

#### **Water Trouble or Leaks**

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.....380-4800

After Hours and Weekends..... 380-4921

Questions About a Bill.....380-4700

Alcoa Water Plant.....380-4921



## **WATER QUALITY REPORT 2012**

The City of Alcoa is pleased to present our Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The bottom line is: The City of Alcoa's water surpasses all federal and state standards for safe drinking water.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. That includes efforts to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We provide water for a majority of Blount County plus Tuckaleechee Utility District.

Our surface water source is the Little River, originating in the Great Smoky Mountains. This is part of the Watts Bar Watershed. A final source water assessment of our watershed with a summary of our susceptibility to potential sources of contamination has been completed. The Tennessee Division of Water Supply considers the Alcoa intake to be of moderate susceptibility. Urban nonpoint pollution is a water quality concern. The Source Water Assessment Plan may be viewed at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Web site at [www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml).

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Is fluoride in my drinking water?**

Yes, trace amounts of fluoride occur naturally in water. The City of Alcoa adjusts this to the level recommended by the American Dental Association and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for optimal dental health. Numerous studies have shown that fluoridated water will aid in the prevention of tooth decay. More information may be found at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).