

**CITY OF BOGALUSA  
LEAD AND COPPER RULE  
TRANSPARANCY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION  
May 2018**

**I. BACKGROUND**

All community and non-transient non-community water systems are required to sample for lead from consumers taps in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule. Compliance is based off of a calculated 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value. This means utilities must ensure that water from the customer's tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes sampled.

**II. SYSTEM INFORMATION**

The City of Bogalusa Water System's PWSID Number is LA1117001. The System's Contact is Honorable Wendy O'Quin Perrette, Mayor (985) 732-6200.

The City of Bogalusa provides fresh, high quality drinking water from a system of deep wells (approximately 1500 feet deep). There are seven deep wells and a series of tanks and pumping stations. Water is chlorinated at each well site. The water we drink in Bogalusa comes from the Amite Aquifer. The City of Bogalusa serves over 5,000 accounts. The water used by each account is measured by automatic meters.

**III. HISTORICAL TEST DATA**

The City of Bogalusa's water system has 30 designated sample sites and is in a reduced Lead and Copper Sampling Schedule, which means it is required to sample every 3 years.

The latest sample results for the City of Bogalusa are as follows:

| Monitoring Period Begin Date | Monitoring Period End Date | Number of Samples | Measure (mg/l) | Analyte |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| 01-01-2015                   | 12-31-2017                 | 30                | 0              | Copper  |
| 01-01-2015                   | 12-31-2017                 | 30                | 0.005          | Lead    |
| 01-01-2012                   | 12-31-2014                 | 30                | 0.1            | Copper  |
| 01-01-2012                   | 12-31-2014                 | 30                | 0.007          | Lead    |
| 01-01-2009                   | 12-31-2011                 | 31                | 0.1            | Copper  |
| 01-01-2009                   | 12-31-2011                 | 31                | 0.006          | Lead    |

The current lead action level is 0.015 mg/l, and the copper action level is 1.3 mg/l. Thus, based on the table above, the City's last nine year's results are well below the action level.

#### **IV. ESTIMATED AGE OF HOMES IN THE AREA**

The Great Southern Lumber Company built its sawmill and a company town which they built to support this rural operation in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This company town was the very early stages of the City of Bogalusa. The Goodyear interests built the City of Bogalusa to house workers and supervisors, and associated infrastructure. Crown-Zellerbach acquired Gaylord's operations in 1955. An attempt to keep the sawmill open with California redwood proved too costly, and the mill was closed. A paper mill and chemical operations continued. At its peak in 1960, the City had more than 21,000 residents.

Thus, it is estimated that approximately 85% of the houses in the City were built during the initial boom in the 20's, 30's and 40's. At that time, plumbing consisted of galvanized and cast iron. It is estimated, however, that these houses underwent 2<sup>nd</sup> generation upgrades in the 80's and 90's where the plumbing was changed to PVC.

It is estimated that only approximately 20% of the houses on the northeast (and a few in the southeast) parts of the City were built in the late 60's and may potentially still have copper plumbing.

Contemporary housing is currently built with PVC plumbing.

The City of Bogalusa Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When a consumer's water has been sitting for several hours, one can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing taps for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking (use cold water). If a consumer is concerned about lead in the water, it can be tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps that can be taken to minimize exposure is available from the Louisiana Department of Health's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at the website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### **V. RECENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

The City of Bogalusa has continually strived to improve its distribution system. In the 1980's the City underwent an effort to install large diameter PVC and Polyethylene water mains throughout the system. More recently, the following projects were completed:

1. The City's customers had not been previously metered and water bills had been based on a flat fee (regardless of usage) up until 2009. Between 2009 and 2013, the City (through a DHH SRF Loan Program) installed 5,637 automated read meters at each of its customer locations. The service connections were upgraded at the new meter locations as needed at that time.
2. In 2015, the City received Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCBDG) funding to kill and abandon the older smaller diameter pipe network in the Terrace and Superior Avenue Areas. 293 separate locations were excavated throughout the system to kill and abandon the older smaller diameter distribution system.

Additionally, 3,143 Linear Feet of PVC and/or Polyethylene water mains (ranging from 2" to 10" in diameter) were installed and/or replaced as part of this project.

3. In 2016, the City received additional Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCBDG) funding to replace water mains throughout the Richardson Town Area. 20,830 Linear Feet of new PVC water mains (ranging from 2" to 12" in diameter), as well as 4,434 Linear Feet of new PVC and/or Polyethylene service lines and 25 new fire hydrants were installed as part of this project. All older lines in the areas where new mains were installed were killed and abandoned.