

THE WATER WE DRINK
2025 Consumer Confidence Report
Town of Independence
Public Water Supply ID LA1105012

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2025. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source(s) are listed below:

<u>Source Name</u>	<u>Source Type</u>
No. 2 Indust. Park Well	Ground Water
No. 1 Seventh ST Well	Ground Water

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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substance resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water 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 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 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.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'Medium'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office at the number provided in the following paragraph.

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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings, or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact Jim Paine at 985-878-4145.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

The Louisiana Department of Health / Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2025. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Treatment Technique (TT) – an enforceable procedure or level of technological performance which public water systems must follow to ensure control of a contaminant.
- Action level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Maximum contaminant level (MCL) – the “Maximum Allowed” MCL is 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.
- Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – the “Goal” is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that

addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- **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.
- **Level 1 assessment** – 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 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.

Our water system grade is a “B”. Our water system report card can be found at “<https://ldh.la.gov/bureau-of-engineering-services/watergrade/>”

During the period covered by this report we had the below noted violations of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Type
12/17/2025	Groundwater Rule	Failure Address Deficiency (GWR)

Our water system tested a minimum of 3 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	2025	1.4	ppm	0.0 – 1.86	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results. The State of Louisiana regularly monitors source water per State and Federal Regulations. Treated water samples are monitored to further evaluate compliance.

Source Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
FLUORIDE	2/5/2024	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Treated Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
NITRATE-NITRITE	6/17/2025	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90 TH Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2022 – 2024	0	0	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2022 – 2024	0	0 - 1	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits;

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS(HAA5)	143 LAMARCA LANE	2025	8	7 – 9.3	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS(HAA5)	145 W. 2 ND STREET	2025	9	7.3 – 10.5	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	143 LAMARCA LANE	2025	19	16.2 – 21.8	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	145 W. 2 ND STREET	2025	25	21.6 – 29.4	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Source Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
ALUMINUM	2/4/2024	0.02	0.02	mg/L	0.2

HARDNESS, TOTAL (As CaCO3)	2/4/2024	4.4	3.7 – 4.4	mg/L	0
IRON	2/4/2024	0.01	0 – 0.01	mg/L	0.3
PH	2/4/2024	8.79	7.92 – 8.79	su	8.5
POTASSIUM	2/4/2024	0.5	0.4 – 0.5	mg/L	0
SODIUM	2/4/2024	90.2	75.4 – 90.2	mg/L	0
SULFATE	2/4/2024	10	9 – 10	mg/L	250

Unresolved significant deficiencies that were identified during a survey done on the water system are shown below.

Date Identified	Facility	Code	Activity	Due Date	Description
9/8/2025	NO. 2 INDUST. PARK WELL	20SE14	GWR ADDRESS TT45 DEFICIENCIES	12/16/2025	LAC 51:XII.319.D.9 and 315.A - All public water supply wells, treatment units, tanks, etc., shall be located inside a fenced area that is capable of being locked; said areas shall be locked when unattended. The fence shall be resistant to climbing and at least 6 feet high.;
9/8/2025	WATER SYSTEM	20CC17A	GWR ADDRESS TT45 DEFICIENCIES	12/16/2025	LAC 51:XII.344.A-B - A. As used in this Section, "mandatory containment practices" means the containment practices prescribed in and required by the state Uniform Construction Code, LAC 17:I, including maintenance and testing requirements, and any additional or related requirements of this Part. B. In order to protect its water supply from potential contamination, each water supplier shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that only customers who comply with mandatory containment practices connect or remain connected to its water supply.;
9/8/2025	WATER SYSTEM	20CC17C	GWR ADDRESS TT45 DEFICIENCIES	12/16/2025	LAC 51:XII.344.B - In order to protect its water supply from potential contamination, each water supplier shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that only customers who comply with mandatory containment practices connect or remain connected to its water supply.;

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. Independence Water System is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Independence Water System and Jim Paine BUS Phone: 988-878-4145. 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>.

The Lead Service line inventory can be reviewed at the Independence town hall.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.