



2026 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**This report provides
information about your
water quality, including:**

- How drinking water is regulated
- Where our water comes from
- How our water is treated, tested and delivered
- What our testing shows
- How our water meets safe drinking water standards
- How we are improving our system
- How customers can learn more

We are proud to report that the water provided by Opelika Water meets or exceeds all established water quality standards.

— THE OPELIKA WATER WORKS BOARD



OpelikaWater.com



Our Commitment to Safe, Reliable Water

Homes and businesses for approximately 130,000 people in our area rely on Opelika Water to treat and deliver clean, reliable drinking water every day. This report provides a summary of our water quality testing results from 2025. You will also find details about where your water comes from, how it is treated and tested, what it contains, and how it compares to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) public health standards.

Opelika Water takes great pride in providing this essential service and keeping our customers informed. We're more than a water provider. We're your neighbors. We care about the people we serve—our own families are counting on our water too.

We strive to meet and exceed all existing standards established by the EPA and ADEM, and to research and prepare for any future regulations which could improve the quality of our drinking water.

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.

How is Drinking Water Regulated?

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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the 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.

Important notice for vulnerable populations: 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. USEPA/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 (1-800-426-4791).

Resources

- More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- The EPA has additional information about drinking water regulations at [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).
- Search for water quality data for community water systems across the U.S. at: enviro.epa.gov/envirofacts/sdwis/search.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include surface water sources and ground water sources. Surface water sources include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, and reservoirs. Ground water sources include springs and wells.

Opelika Water collects and treats water from two surface water reservoirs:

Saugahatchee Lake

Saugahatchee Lake (City Lake) stores water from Saugahatchee Creek. It covers about 500 acres and has a watershed that spans about 20 square miles. The lake was constructed in the early 1940's and has been a viable water supply source since 1948. This reservoir is owned by Opelika Water.

Halawakee Creek / Lake Harding

Halawakee Creek, an arm of Lake Harding, receives water from the Chattahoochee River. Brought online in 1986, this lake has proven to be a high quality, dependable water source. This reservoir is owned by Georgia Power Company.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and 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 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organics, 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

Assessment of Potential Contaminants

Opelika Water conducts assessments of the susceptibility of its public water system water sources to potential sources of contamination. These assessments have been done in accordance with Alabama's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose for conducting the assessments is to educate the public and promote the development of local, voluntary source water protection.

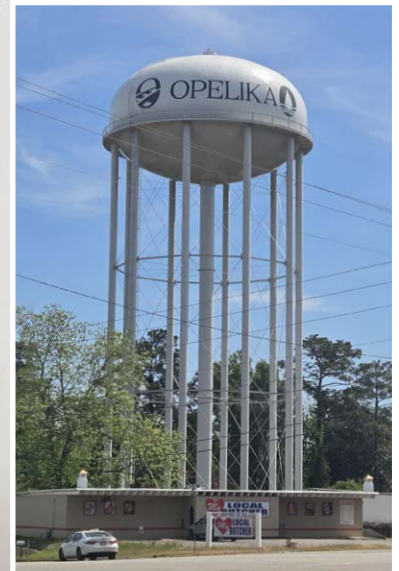
During 2021, the Source Water Assessment for Saugahatchee Lake and Lake Harding was updated and

reviewed. Copies of the assessment documents are available to the public upon request. Requests can be made at 4055 Water Street, Opelika.

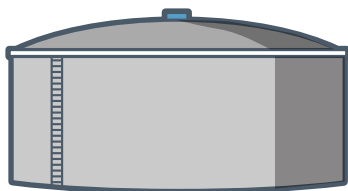
Learn more about source water protection and other drinking water topics through EPA's Drinking Water Academy Webcasts. These interactive online trainings cover a variety of subjects relevant to drinking water systems. To explore upcoming courses and register, visit the EPA Drinking Water Academy website at: epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training.

How is Our Water Treated and Delivered?

- Opelika's **W. Warner Williams Water Resource Park** at Saugahatchee Lake, which opened in May 2013, combines a state-of-the-art water treatment plant, distribution and maintenance facilities, and a LEED-certified administration building. The Saugahatchee Lake plant can treat up to eight million gallons of water per day.
- The **Robert A. Betts Water Treatment Plant**, originally constructed in 1986 and expanded in 2003, can treat up to 16 million gallons per day. Treatment and resiliency upgrades on the Betts Water Treatment Plant are in design with construction to begin in 2028 and completion expected in 2031.
- Together, the Saugahatchee and Betts plants can treat and deliver a total of up to 24 million gallons per day.
- To maintain the quantity and pressure to meet customer demands and fire suppression needs, the Opelika Water system must maintain a significant amount of water in storage across the system.



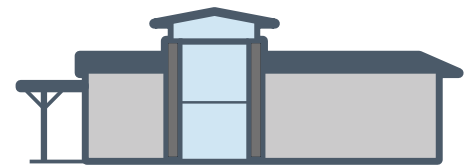
Local Storage and Delivery System: By the Numbers



The Opelika Water system has a total of **7,250,000 gallons** of storage in five tanks.



These tanks are connected by a system of **300 miles of underground pipes** of various sizes ranging up to 36 inches in diameter. These pipes connect the filtration plants, the storage tanks and your homes, businesses and industry.



2.5 million gallons of water is available at the Booster Pumping Station in-ground storage tanks, **2 million gallons** at the R. A. Betts Filter Plant, and another **500,000 gallons** at the Saugahatchee Lake Water Treatment Plant.

How Do We Monitor and Test Drinking Water?

Water quality monitoring and testing is conducted daily to ensure the water leaving the Opelika treatment facilities meets health standards. Additional water testing is routinely performed throughout the distribution system to ensure quality is maintained as the water flows to area homes and businesses. Our staff also voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe to drink and of high quality.



Terms, Abbreviations and Definitions

- **AL - Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant that triggers treatment or other requirement of a water system shall follow.
- **BMDL** - Below Minimum Detectable Limit
- **BMRL** - Below Method Detection Level
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level - 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.
- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Goal Level - 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MDL** - Minimum Detectable Limit
- **MFL** - million fibers per liter
- **mg/L** - milligrams per liter (Same as parts per million 10^{-6})
- **mho@25** - unit of electric conductance, susceptance and admittance
- **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 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.
- **MRL** - Method Reporting Limit
- **mrem/year** - millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **N/A** - Not Applicable
- **ng/l** - nanograms per liter (same as parts per trillion)
- **ND** - None Detected
- **NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
- **pCi/L** - Pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppb** - parts per billion (One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.)
- **ppm** - parts per million (One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.)
- **ppt** - parts per trillion (10^{-12}) - (One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2 million years or a single penny in \$10 billion.)
- **PCU** - Particulate Color Units
- **Su** - Sorensen units— pH—a logarithmic measure used to state the acidity or alkalinity of a solution
- **TT** - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **µg/L** - micrograms per liter (Same as parts per billion 10^{-9})
- **Variances and Exemptions** - ADEM or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a Treatment Technique under certain conditions.

Opelika Water Quality Test Results

Opelika Water routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following tables show the results of our water-quality analyses for calendar year 2025 unless otherwise noted. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulations (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contaminants, footnotes explaining findings, and a key to units of measurements. *See Terms, Abbreviations and Definitions*

Sampling Frequency

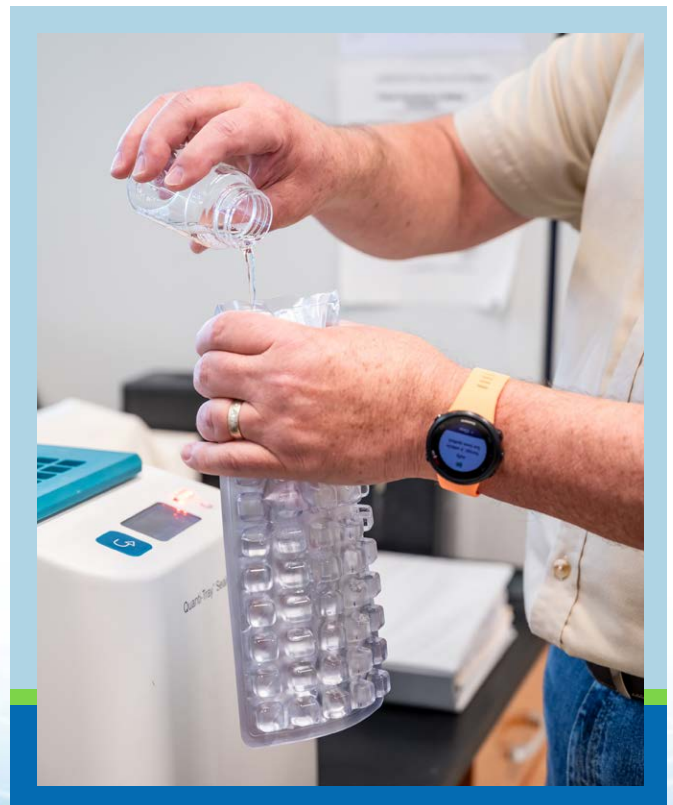
Opelika Water is required by the EPA and the ADEM to test many analyte/analyte groups. An analyte is a substance or chemical constituent that is undergoing analysis. The sampling is not required on all analytes in the same intervals. The following list of analytes and sample due dates may help in understanding why many sample dates reported are more than one year old.

- Gross Alpha, including RA – next sample by 12/31/2034 (one sample every 9 years) at R.A. Betts plant and by 12/31/2032 at Saugahatchee Lake plant.
- Radium – next sample by 12/31/2034 (one sample every 9 years) at R.A. Betts plant and by 12/31/2032 at Saugahatchee Lake plant.
- Lead/Copper – next sample by 9/30/2028 (30 samples every 3 years).
- Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) – (two samples every 3 years) next 2 samples by 12/31/2028 at R.A. Betts plant and by 12/31/2028 at Saugahatchee Lake plant.
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) – next sample by 12/31/2026 at the Saugahatchee Lake plant and by 12/31/2028 at the R.A. Betts plant.
- Most others are due at least annually.

The Value of Clean, Reliable Drinking Water

- Opelika's water system—responsible for delivering clean drinking water 24/7—represents over \$300 million in capital assets.
- Water is treated and delivered for just \$0.01042 per gallon—essentially a penny—for safe, reliable service.
- Aging pipelines and equipment need replacement to maintain reliability and water quality.
- Over 18,000 meters have been upgraded to smart meters in recent years.
- We're actively addressing seasonal taste and odor issues from Saugahatchee Lake and making critical upgrades to the Betts Water Treatment Plant.
- Additional improvements include replacing old galvanized pipes, upgrading main lines along South 7th Street, Grand National Parkway, Cunningham Drive, and continuing pipe upgrades in residential neighborhoods.

View an online interactive map at OpelikaWater.com to learn about Water Improvement Projects that are being planned, under construction, or completed.



Required Listing of Detected Contaminants, Sources, and Health Information

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Major Sources	Health Information
Cadmium	5 ppb	5 ppb	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints.	Some people who drink water containing cadmium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage.
Chlorine	MRDLG= 4 ppm	MRDL= 4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbials.	Some people who use or consume drinking water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose or experience stomach discomfort.
Chromium	100 ppb	100 ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.	Some people who use water containing chromium well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience allergic dermatitis.
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.	Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums.
Lead	0	AL = 15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate or nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.
Nitrite	1 ppm	1 ppm		
Turbidity	N/A	TT	Soil Runoff	Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment.	Total organic carbon has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts, including trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N/A	80 ppb (annual avg)	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	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 system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	N/A	60 ppb (annual avg)	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants—Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs)

Contaminant	MCL mg/L	Amt Detected R.A Betts mg/L	Amt Detected Saugahatchee mg/L	MDL mg/L	Collected R.A Betts	Collected Saugahatchee
Antimony	0.006	BMDL	BMDL	0.00014	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Arsenic	0.05	BMDL	BMDL	0.00026	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Barium	2	0.0169	0.0182	0.00016	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Beryllium	0.004	BMDL	BMDL	0.00011	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Cadmium	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.00013	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Chromium	0.1	0.00056	0.00042	0.00026	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Cyanide	0.2	BMDL	BMDL	0.00125	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Fluoride	4	BMDL	BMDL	0.193	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Lead	0.015	BMDL	BMDL	0.0195	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Mercury	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.00036	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Nickel	0.1	0.0009	0.00044	0.00016	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Nitrate (As N)	10	0.321	0.116	0.0199	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Nitrite (As N)	1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0312	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Total Nitrate/Nitrite	10	0.321	0.116	0.0511	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Selenium	0.05	BMDL	BMDL	0.00069	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Sulfate	500	23.9	20.7	0.757	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Thallium	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.00013	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Alkalinity, Total	N/A	34.0	26.0	20.0	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Aluminum	0.2	BMDL	0.0663	0.0433	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Calcium	N/A	4.71	2.56	0.0458	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Carbon Dioxide	N/A	29.9	22.9	N/A	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Chloride	250	13.0	8.92	0.967	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Color	15	BMDL	BMDL	6	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Copper	1	0.0014	0.00048	0.00026	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Foaming Agents (Surfactants)	0.5	BMDL	BMDL	0.18	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Hardness, Total (As CaCo3)	N/A	21.7	12.3	0.228	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Iron	0.3	BMDL	BMDL	0.0195	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Magnesium	N/A	2.4	1.43	0.0178	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Manganese	0.05	0.0029	BMDL	0.00021	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Odor	3 TON	None	None	N/A	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
pH	N/A	7.3	7.3	N/A	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Silver	0.1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0006	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Sodium	N/A	25.9	19.4	0.140	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Specific Conductance	N/A	161	121	10	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	500	88.0	63.0	N/A	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Zinc	5	0.0027	0.0007	0.00022	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
NO VIOLATIONS OF MCLs OCCURRED IN 2025						
Note: Based on a study conducted by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), with the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a statewide waiver was issued for monitoring asbestos and dioxin. As a result, monitoring for these contaminants was not required during the reporting period.						

Taste and Odor Notice

Some customers may notice stronger earthy or musty tastes and odors in their water due to naturally occurring compounds from algae in source waters. Higher-than-usual algae levels in Lake Harding, combined with drought conditions and limited rainfall, have made these compounds more noticeable than in past years.

While this may affect taste and odor, the water remains safe to drink and use. Opelika Water continues daily testing and monitoring to ensure all water meets federal and state regulatory standards.

Our current treatment facilities are not designed to remove these compounds at elevated levels without significant upgrades. We are actively working toward long-term treatment improvements, but these solutions will take time and substantial investment to ensure the right approach for our community.

Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants—Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs)

Contaminant Test	MCL mg/L	Amt Detected R.A Betts mg/L	Amt Detected Saugahatchee mg/L	MDL mg/L	Collected R.A Betts	Collected Saugahatchee
2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	0.05	BMDL	BMDL	0.000059	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
2,4-D	0.07	BMDL	BMDL	0.000096	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Alachlor (Lasso)	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.000029	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Atrazine	0.003	BMDL	BMDL	0.000015	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHS]	0.0002	BMDL	BMDL	0.000019	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Carbofuran	0.04	BMDL	BMDL	0.00059	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Chlordane	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.000035	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Dalapon	0.2	BMDL	BMDL	0.00049	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
DBCP (1,2 Dibromo-3-Chloropropane)	0.0002	BMDL	BMDL	0.0000066	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Bis (2-ethylhexyl) adipate	0.4	BMDL	BMDL	0.00036	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthlate	0.006	BMDL	BMDL	0.00047	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Dinoseb	0.007	BMDL	BMDL	0.00016	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Diquat	0.02	BMDL	BMDL	0.00016	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
EDB (Ethylene Dibromide)	0.00005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0000075	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Endothall	0.1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0033	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Endrin	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.0000051	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Glyphosate	0.7	BMDL	BMDL	0.0042	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Heptachlor	0.0004	BMDL	BMDL	0.000014	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Heptachlor epoxide	0.0002	BMDL	BMDL	0.0000030	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	0.001	BMDL	BMDL	0.000015	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.05	BMDL	BMDL	0.000024	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Lindane	0.0002	BMDL	BMDL	0.0000027	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Methoxychlor	0.04	BMDL	BMDL	0.000055	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Oxamyl (Vydate)	0.2	BMDL	BMDL	0.00046	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)	0.0005	BMDL	BMDL	0.000044	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Pentachlorophenol	0.001	BMDL	BMDL	0.000014	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Pichloram	0.5	BMDL	BMDL	0.00004	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Simazine	0.004	BMDL	BMDL	0.00004	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Toxaphene	0.003	BMDL	BMDL	0.00027	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00034	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Aldicarb	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00038	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Aldicarb Sulfone	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00058	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00047	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Aldrin	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.000024	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Butachlor	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00002	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Carbaryl	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00033	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Dicamba	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.000067	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Dieldrin	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00002	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Methomyl	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.00031	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Metolachlor	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.000035	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Metribuzin	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.000013	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
Propachlor	N/A	BMDL	BMDL	0.000018	11/5/2024	11/5/2024
NO VIOLATIONS OF MCLs OCCURRED IN 2025						



Lead and Drinking Water

Health effects: Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate 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.

Potential sources: Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Opelika Water is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing in individual homes. 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.

Corrosion control: Corrosion of pipes, plumbing fittings and fixtures may cause metals, including lead and copper, to enter drinking water. To assess corrosion of lead and copper, Opelika Water conducts tap sampling for lead and copper at selected sites every three years. Opelika Water treats water using a phosphate blend to control corrosion and to ensure the treatment is operating effectively, daily monitors water quality parameters. Additionally, our team continuously monitors water quality parameters at various sites in the distribution system.

Protect your family: 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 (ANSI) accredited certifier to reduce lead—is effective

in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure it 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.

Service line inventory: In accordance with new state and federal laws, all water utilities are required to inventory and classify the material of every water service line in their service area. A service line is the underground pipe that carries water from the water main, likely located in the street, into your home or building. We have completed our system-wide inventory and are pleased to report that **no lead service lines were identified** in our system. You can request information about the Opelika Water service line inventory at 334-705-5500 and view a map at owwb.com/serviceline.

If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Opelika Water at 334-705-5500. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

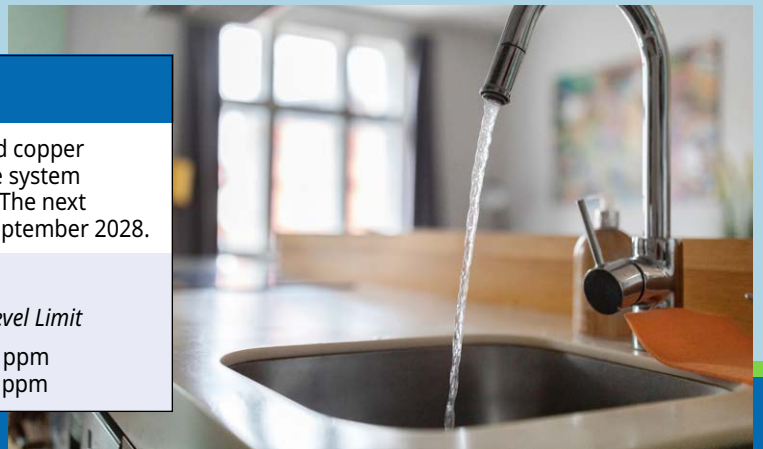
Sampling for schools and childcare facilities: As part of federal requirements, our water system is required to collect lead samples from schools and licensed childcare facilities upon request from the facility. If you are a parent or guardian and would like information about lead sampling results at your child's school or daycare, please contact the school or facility directly.

Lead and Copper Monitoring

Opelika Water completed monitoring requirements for lead and copper in 2025 without exceeding the lead and copper action level. The system will continue to monitor for lead and copper every three years. The next monitoring period for the system will be the period of June – September 2028.

Our monitoring results in 2025 were as follows:

	<i>Actual Results</i>	<i>Action Level Limit</i>
Lead (90th Percentile Sample)	= 0.00052 ppm	0.010 ppm
Copper (90th Percentile Sample)	= 0.0768 ppm	1.30 ppm



Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants–Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)

Contaminant Test	MCL mg/L	Amt Detected R.A Betts mg/L	Amt Detected Saugahatchee mg/L	MDL mg/L	Collected R.A Betts	Collected Saugahatchee
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.2	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.007	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Benzene	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.07	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Ethylbenzene	0.7	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane)	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Chlorobenzene	0.1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.075	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Styrene	0.1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
TCE (Trichloroethylene)	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Tetrachloroethene	0.005	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Toluene	1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.1	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Vinyl Chloride	0.002	BMDL	BMDL	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Xylenes	10	BMDL	BMDL	0.001	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Bromodichloromethane	N/A	0.0025	0.0026	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Chloroform	N/A	0.0060	0.0045	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
Dibromochloromethane	N/A	0.0006	0.001	0.0005	05/14/2024	10/14/2025
In addition to the 24 compounds above, we tested for the following additional 33 compounds, but did not detect them in the water:						
1,1-Dichloropropene	Trans-1,3-Dichloropropene		Dibromomethane		2-Chlorotoluene	
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene		Dichlorodifluoromethane		4-Chlorotoluene	
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	2,2-Dichloropropane		Hexachlorobutadiene		4-Isopropyltoluene	
1,1-Dichloroethane	Bromobenzene		Isopropylbenzene		Sec-Butylbenzene	
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	Bromochloromethane		1,3-Dichlorobenzene		Tert-Butylbenzene	
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	Bromoform		Methyl-Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)		Trichlorfluoromethane	
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Bromomethane		N-Butylbenzene			
1,3-Dichloropropane	Chloroethane		Naphthalene			
Cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	Chloromethane		N-Propylbenzene			
NO VIOLATIONS OF MCLs OCCURRED IN 2025						

Radiologicals

Contaminant	MCL	Amt Detected R.A Betts	Amt Detected Saugahatchee	Unit	MDL	Collected R.A Betts	Collected Saugahatchee
Radium-228	5	BMDL	0.975	pCi/L	0.6	06/15/2022	06/15/2022
Gross Alpha	15	BMDL	BMDL	pCi/L	2.5	06/15/2022	06/15/2022

Bacteriologicals

Contaminant	MCL	Amt Detected	Unit	MDL	Collected
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	0		<1.0	Monthly
Turbidity	0.30	0.055	NTU	0.001	Hourly

Methyl-Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)

Recent publicity associated with Methyl-Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) has caused a great deal of uneasiness to the general public and our customers. We are committed to producing top quality water and providing our customers with information concerning the quality of our water. To that end, we have had our finished water and our source water from both sites tested. **We are pleased to announce that the analysis indicates that our water is free of this contaminant.**



2025 Total Organic Carbon (TOCs)—R.A. Betts Water Treatment Plant

Month	Sample Set Date Compliance	Raw	Treated	Alkalinity	%Removed	%Required	Ratio	Alternate	Compliance
JAN	1/8/2025	1.97	1.19	24.8	39.6	35	1.13	1.00	1.13
FEB	2/4/2025	2.20	1.31	20.0	40.5	35	1.16	1.00	1.16
MAR	3/3/2025	2.72	1.33	26.0	51.2	35	1.46	1.00	1.46
APR	4/2/2025	2.01	1.06	28.0	47.3	35	1.35	1.00	1.35
MAY	5/5/2025	2.84	1.27	26.0	55.3	35	1.58	1.00	1.58
JUN	6/3/2025	2.73	1.39	28.0	49.1	35	1.40	1.00	1.40
JUL	7/7/2025	3.10	1.80	30.0	42.0	35	1.20	1.00	1.20
AUG	8/5/2025	2.64	1.63	38.0	38.3	35	1.09	1.00	1.09
SEP	9/2/2025	2.92	1.61	30.0	44.9	35	1.28	1.00	1.28
OCT	10/8/2025	2.86	1.67	30.0	41.7	35	1.19	1.00	1.19
NOV	11/3/2025	2.50	1.50	30.0	40.0	35	1.14	1.00	1.14
DEC	12/1/2025	2.53	1.33	30.0	47.5	35	1.36	1.00	1.36
Average		2.59	1.42	28.4	44.8	35	1.28		1.28
Was TOC removal attained		Yes		Running Annual Average			1.28	(Must be greater than 1.00)	



2025 Total Organic Carbon (TOCs)—Saugahatchee Lake Water Treatment Plant

Month	Sample Set Date Compliance	Raw	Treated	Alkalinity	%Removed	%Required	Ratio	Alternate	Compliance
JAN	1/8/2025	3.73	2.10	17.3	43.7	35	1.25	1.00	1.25
FEB	2/4/2025	4.07	2.24	18.2	45.0	45	1.00	1.00	1.00
MAR	3/3/2025	3.77	2.21	19.1	41.4	35	1.18	1.00	1.18
APR	4/2/2025	3.08	1.70	20.0	44.9	35	1.28	1.00	1.28
MAY	5/5/2025	4.32	2.18	20.0	49.6	45	1.10	1.00	1.10
JUN	6/3/2025	3.86	1.88	21.0	51.3	35	1.47	1.00	1.47
JUL	7/7/2025	4.06	2.26	22.0	44.4	45	0.99	1.00	0.99
AUG	8/5/2025	3.71	2.25	20.0	39.4	35	1.13	1.00	1.13
SEP	9/2/2025	3.82	2.57	23.5	32.8	35	0.94	1.00	0.94
OCT	10/8/2025	3.87	2.20	20.0	43.2	35	1.23	1.00	1.23
NOV	11/3/2025	3.40	2.05	20.5	39.8	35	1.14	1.00	1.14
DEC	12/1/2025	3.21	1.82	19.6	43.4	35	1.24	1.00	1.24
Average		3.74	2.12	20.1	43.2	37.5	1.15		1.16
Was TOC removal attained		Yes		Running Annual Average			1.16	(Must be greater than 1.00)	

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) are a by-product of drinking water chlorination. Chlorine is a strong disinfectant used to ensure that drinking water is safe to drink. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. 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.

Opelika Water is required to monitor your drinking water for specific parameters and contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets standards set by ADEM.

Opelika Water had no violations for Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) or Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) in 2025.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) MCL = 80 ppb annual average (All values expressed as ppb)

TTHMs	1st Qtr. 2025	2nd Qtr. 2025	3rd Qtr. 2025	4th Qtr. 2025	Locational Running Annual Average
Sector 1	30.4	77.5	53.3	55.6	54.2
Sector 2	39.5	88.0	61.6	33.0	55.5
Sector 3	31.9	70.8	65.3	38.1	51.5
Sector 4	26.1	58.0	60.9	33.7	44.7
Sector 5	9.1	21.8	9.9	5.9	11.7
Sector 6	6.9	15.4	15.5	9.0	11.7

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) MCL = 60 ppb annual average (All values expressed as ppb)

HAA5s	1st Qtr. 2025	2nd Qtr. 2025	3rd Qtr. 2025	4th Qtr. 2025	Locational Running Annual Average
Sector 1	18.6	28.5	31.2	25.8	26.0
Sector 2	22.0	25.0	33.2	22.5	25.7
Sector 3	16.0	23.9	33.3	23.8	24.3
Sector 4	14.3	27.6	32.2	19.3	23.4
Sector 5	11.5	33.3	10.3	6.0	15.3
Sector 6	0.0	8.5	10.0	6.6	6.3

Chlorite

Chlorite occurs in drinking water as disinfection by products when chlorine dioxide is used in the treatment process. Both plants have been using chlorine dioxide in recent years and have therefore been required to test for chlorite at the plants and in the system. The following chart shows the months that the chlorine dioxide was in use and the chlorite results.

Chlorite (All values expressed as mg/l) MCL=1.0mg/l

Month	Site 1 (Pepperell Pkwy)	Site 2 (Preston St)	Site 3 (Saug. Plant)	Site 4 (Jeter Ave)	Site 5 (Hamilton Rd)	Site 6 (Betts Plant)
JAN	0.60	0.67	0.73	0.68	0.66	0.87
FEB	0.88	0.62	0.74	0.83	0.77	0.97
MAR	0.63	0.75	0.82	0.75	0.69	0.66
APR	0.50	0.47	0.55	0.45	0.42	0.54
MAY	0.48	0.43	0.49	0.40	0.62	0.50
JUN	0.64	0.56	0.78	0.56	0.50	0.74
JUL	0.39	0.41	0.59	0.39	0.37	0.58
AUG	0.79	0.68	0.85	0.60	0.68	0.72
SEP	0.74	0.75	0.75	0.64	0.63	0.81
OCT	0.67	0.63	0.80	0.66	0.62	0.78
NOV	0.54	0.54	0.50	0.52	0.56	0.67
DEC	0.48	0.46	0.66	0.47	0.43	0.68

Unregulated Contaminants—UCMR 5 2023 (Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule)

The fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2021. UCMR 5 requires monitoring for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025 using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. This action provides the agency and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. For more information on UCMR 5, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Testing for UCMR 5 occurred in January, May, July and October of 2023. All results listed as ng/l or ppt (parts per trillion).

Compound	UCMR5 SE1		UCMR5 SE2		UCMR5 SE3		UCMR5 SE4	
	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l
PFBS	1.5(I)	BMDL	2.4(I)	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	1.2(I)	BMDL
PFHxA	3.8	3.0	3.6	2.7(I)	3.8	BMDL	5.0	5.6
PFBA	1.8(I)	1.8(I)	2.4(I)	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	2.0(I)	3.3(I)
PFPeA	2.6(I)	2.9	2.7(I)	2.7(I)	4.6	BMDL	3.3	6.4
PFHpA	2.7(I)	1.3(I)	1.8(I)	1.3(I)	BMDL	BMDL	2.8	2.3(I)
PFHxS	1.7(I)	BMDL	1.3(I)	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	1.3(I)	BMDL
PFOS	6.4	BMDL	5.6	BMDL	5.3	BMDL	5.4	BMDL
PFOA	8.4	1.8(I)	5.5	1.8(I)	5.8	BMDL	11.0	4.3
In addition to the 8 compounds above, we tested for the following additional 22 compounds, but did not detect them in the water:								
11CI-PF3OUdS	8:2 FTS	HFPO-DA	PFDA	PFMBA	PFDoA	NEtFOSAA	PFTA	
4:2 FTS	9CI-PF3ONS	Lithium	PFEESA	PFMPA	PFNA	NMeFOSAA	PFTDA	
6:2 FTS	ADONA	NFDHA	PFHps	PFPeS	PFUnA			
(I) The reported value is between the laboratory method detection limit and the laboratory practical quantitation limit.								

PFAS

Opelika Water in accordance with ADEM Code r.335-7-2-.10(2)(f) has monitored for PFAS quarterly in 2024. Samples were collected in January, May, July, and October

In June 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an updated interim lifetime health advisory for four compounds. This updated advisory was a drastic reduction from the advisory released by the EPA in 2016. The four compounds noted in the advisory are a part of a large group of chemicals that are called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS for short. These compounds are man-made substances that have been produced since the early 1940's and are commonly used in food packaging, production of non-stick cookware surfaces, stain resistant and water-repellant clothing, carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, and other consumer products that resist heat, oil, grease and water.

In addition to the consumer products noted, drinking water can also be an additional source of exposure. Opelika Water continues to sample for PFAS and is currently testing treatment methods to determine the best solution for reducing or removing the contaminant.

PFAS (2025) Values expressed as ng/l (ppt)

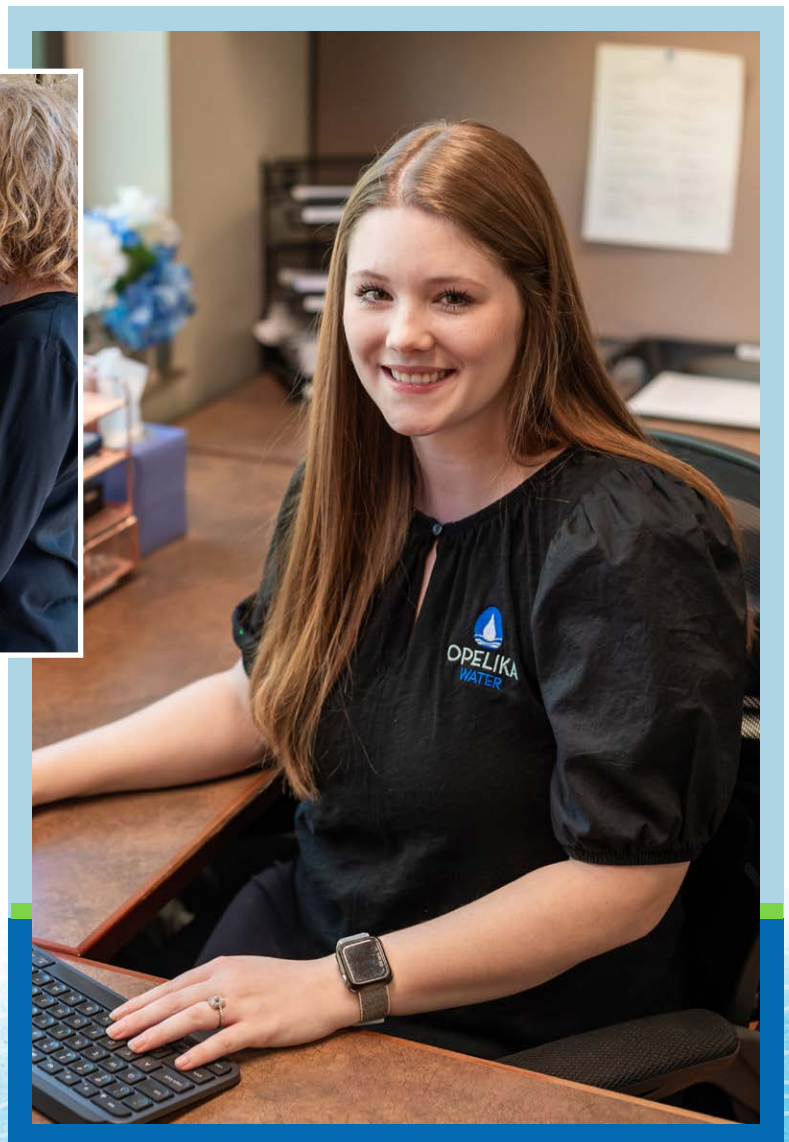
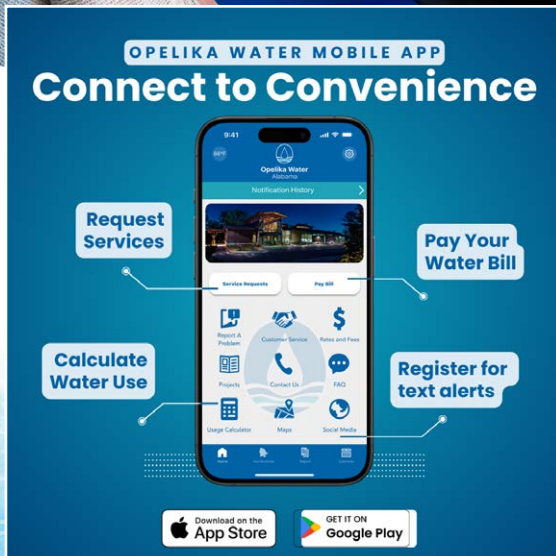
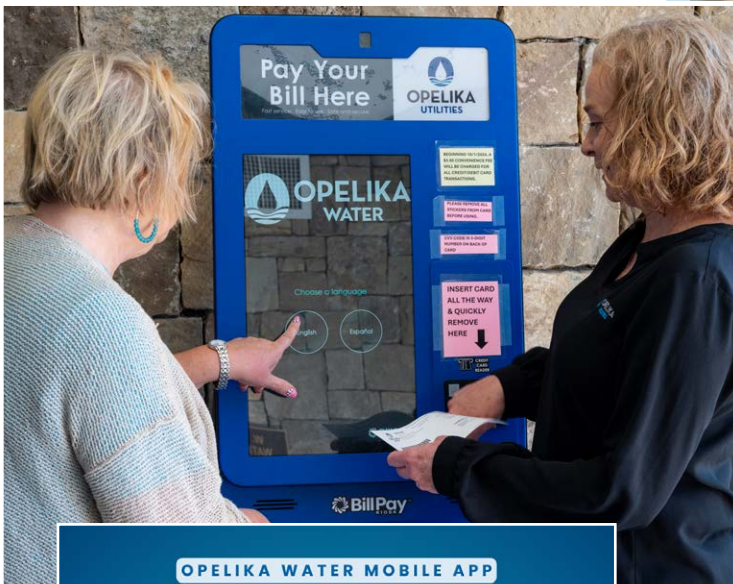
Compound	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l	RA Betts ng/l	Saug ng/l
PFBS	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	3.7	BMDL
PFHxA	5.8	2.9	3.0	2.0	7.7	3.1	4.2	4.4
PFHpA	2.6	BMDL	2.4	BMDL	1.9	BMDL	BMDL	2.0
PFHxS	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL	BMDL
PFOS	5.5	BMDL	6.4	BMDL	4.7	BMDL	4.5	BMDL
PFOA	12.0	2.8	11.0	2.0	9.2	2.6	5.3	3.9
In addition to the 6 compounds above, we tested for the following additional 12 compounds, but did not detect them in the water:								
11CI-PF3OUdS	ADONA	NEtFOSAA	PFDA	PFNA	PFTA	PFTrDA		
9CI-PF3ONS	HFPO-DA	NMeFOSAA	PFDoA	PFTA		PFUnA		

Pay Your Way

At Opelika Water, we offer several simple and fast ways to pay your water bill. Choose from the following:

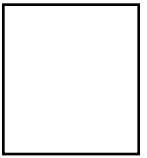
- **Create an online account:** It only takes a couple of minutes to register for **MyAccount**, Opelika Water's online account platform. Once you've registered, you can view your usage, as well as look at and pay your bill. Remember to keep your contact information up to date!
- **Quick Pay:** The fastest way to pay your bill. You can make a payment without logging into your account. Click the **MAKE QUICK PAYMENT** button.
- **Pay through our app:** Download our free Opelika Water Mobile App, available in Apple and Google Play, and you can view your monthly bill and pay directly from your phone. You can select your payment cycle and receive a push notification to remind you when your bill is due.
- **Set up automatic payments by bank draft.** Visit OpelikaWater.com or call our business office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday to get more information.
- **Visit our kiosk:** Located just inside our office at 4055 Water Street, our convenient kiosk is available 24/7 and accepts cash and card payments.
- **Pay in-person:** You can pay in-person or at the drive-thru from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday.
- **Enroll in paperless billing:** Instead of a monthly paper bill, you will receive an email with the amount due, due date, and a link to view your digital billing statement in MyAccount. Be sure to keep email address updated!

Please note: If an online payment is made following disconnection, customers must call our office.





4055 Water Street | Opelika, AL 36801
OpelikaWater.com



2026 Water Quality Report

Stay Informed

Opelika Water offers many ways to stay informed, engage with our team and pay your bill:

- **Visit our website at OpelikaWater.com** for a copy of this report and previous reports, submit a service request, view rates and fees, learn about system improvements, and more.
- **Download our free mobile app.**
- **Follow us on social media** – Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter).
- **Call 334-705-5500 or text 334-591-3525** to chat with a representative between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday – Friday.

MAIN OFFICE

4055 Water Street

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ENGINEERING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Monday – Friday
6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FOR BILLING, MAIL TO:

P.O. Box 2587
Opelika, AL 36803-2587

FOR GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, MAIL TO:

P.O. Box 1029
Opelika, AL 36803-1029

The Opelika Water Board meets in the boardroom of our main office located at 4055 Water Street on the fourth Monday of every month at 3 p.m. Central Time.