We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. 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 sources for this great city are the Ross Barnett Reservoir and the Pearl River (surface water) and are treated and provided to you through our two (2) state of the art Class "A" drinking water facilities: O. B. Curtis and J. H. Fewell Water Treatment Plants.

In August 2014, the City of Jackson Maddox Road Well system was taken offline and made inactive. Due to unavoidable equipment malfunctions and water main pressure issues, the wells were placed back in-service in July 2015 in emergency back-up status. The City of Jackson’s emergency back-up well system is comprised of six (6) groundwater wells located along the Hwy 18 corridor: Wiggins Rd Well, TV Road Well, Maddox Rd Well, Hwy 18 Well, Willowood Well, and Swell Road Well.

Our mission is to provide clean, safe drinking water that meets Federal and State regulations, in adequate amounts and at the lowest possible cost.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has completed their source water assessment report which is available for review by appointment at the Water / Sewer Utilities Division Office, 220 S. President Street, Rm 405, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Call 601-960-2096 for appointment.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Cynthia Hill, Water Systems Manager at 601-960-2417. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. To participate in decisions that may affect the quality of the water, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Council meetings. They are held every other Tuesday at either 6:00 PM or 10:00 AM within City Hall.

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink, the City of Jackson Water System routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. These laws limit the amount of certain contaminants in your drinking water. This report contains one table that shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Information about Your Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. 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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage pollution, wildlife, and animals.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radionuclides which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, contact the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4701.

The Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated in a series of processes applied in sequence that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Coagulation removes dirt and other particles suspended in the source water by adding chemicals called coagulants to form tiny sticky particles called "floc," which attract the dirt particles. Flocculation is the formation of larger flocs from smaller flocs and is achieved using gentler, constant mixing. The heavy particles settle naturally out of the water in a sedimentation basin. The clear water then moves to the filtration process where the water passes through sand, gravel, and anthracite to remove even smaller particles. Ultraviolet light with a small amount of chlorine and ammonia is used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water before water is stored and distributed to homes and businesses in the community. For the emergency backup wells, the water was treated by disinfection only.

The City of Jackson’s emergency backup water system is currently scheduled for installation by December 31, 2018.
For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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 (800-426-4791).

Additional Information and Recommendations for 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 Jackson is responsible for providing qualified 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 one to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

Although the majority of home-lab test performed identified no lead, or lead below the action level set by the EPA, the Mississippi State Department of Health and the City of Jackson are issuing these recommendations as a special precaution, especially for households with young children or pregnant women. These precautions should remain in place at least six months while the City monitors the necessary changes required to stabilize the pH levels in its water system.

1. Before using tap water for drinking or cooking, run your cold tap for one to two minutes. For details, see http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

2. Households should never use hot water for drinking or cooking.

3. Residents should clean out their faucet aerators on a regular basis by unscrewing the aerator at the tip of the faucet, and removing any sediment or particles that have collected in the filter screen.

4. Any child five years of age or younger and any pregnant woman should use filtered water (NSF53 certified filter – http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU) or bottled water for drinking and cooking.

5. Baby formula should be “ready-to-feed” or prepared using only filtered or bottled water.

6. Parents with children five years or younger should contact their child’s pediatrician or primary care provider to make sure that adequate lead screening and blood testing have been performed.

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 or www.HealthyMS.com/Jackson. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead and copper testing for $15 per sample. Please contact 601-576-7582 if you want to have your water tested.

Fluoridation and Your Drinking Water

To comply with the “Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies”, CITY OF JACKSON is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7 to 1.3 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range was 95%.

Where Your Money Goes

Your water use charge is:

1. $3.21/100 cubic feet if you are outside the City Limits,
2. $6.42/100 cubic feet if you are outside the City Limits but within 1 mile of the City Limits, and
3. $2.48/100 cubic feet if you are more than 1 mile outside the City Limits.
65% of this charge is used for operations and maintenance of the water system. 35% of this charge is used for debt retirement.

Get Involved

We ask that all our customers help protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future. Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our water source, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. There are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets & appliances
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.
- You can conserve outdoors as well.
- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, save the hose for rinsing.

Information on other ways you can help conserve water can be found on the EPA’s website at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/public/outreach.

Thirsty for More Information about Your Water?

Please feel free to contact us: www.jacksonms.gov
For Billing Inquiries, call 601.960.2000
For Non-Emergency City concerns, Dial 311

If you have any questions concerning your water utility, please contact:
Cynthia Hill, Water Systems Manager...601.960.2417
For sampling, water quality complaints, or boil water questions, call
Water Laboratory...601.960.2723
For water leaks or repairs, meter issues, or locating water lines, call
Water Maintenance...601.960.1777