# 2026 Annual Water Quality Report

(Testing Performed January through December 2025)

## KUSHLA WATER DISTRICT

**PWSID AL0000993**
6210 Hwy 45
Eight Mile, AL 36613
251-675-2297
Monday – Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
*kushlawater.com*

*As a convenience to you, payments are now being accepted on our website! Just click the "PAY NOW" button on our home page and follow instructions. Alternatively, you may mail your remittance and bill to the office or use the after-hours depository box, located at the left of the drive-up window. Current office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.*

*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 continually need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. Some of those improvements include extending our water lines to new customers, replacing old or damaged water lines, cleaning and painting our storage tanks, replacing old or defective water meters, and upgrading our pumping stations. These improvements sometimes require interruptions in service. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Thank you for understanding.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Water Source** | Two (2) groundwater wells producing from the Miocene series | |
| **Water Treatment** | Chlorination for disinfection | |
| **Number of Customers** | Approximately 2212 | |
| **Superintendent** | Chad Hennis | |
| | | |
| **Water Board** | Place 1: Richard L. Nelson<br>County Commission Appointee - At Large | Place 5: Jennie Reese<br>County Commission Appointee - Chunchula |
| | Place 2: William B. Andrews – Chairman<br>County Commission Appointee - Kali Oka District | Place 6: Joshua D. Burch<br>County Commission Appointee - Kushla |
| | Place 3: Daryl T. Taylor<br>County Commission Appointee - Smithtown/Oak Grove | Place 7: Earl Hudson<br>Saraland Appointee – Saraland |
| | Place 4: Erica J. Massey<br>County Commission Appointee – Mauvilla | Place 8: - vacant -<br>Prichard Appointee - Prichard |

### Source Water Protection

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Kushla Water District has developed a Wellhead Protection Plan that assists in protecting our water sources. This plan provides information such as potential sources of contamination. It includes a susceptibility analysis, which classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contaminating the water source. A copy of the report is available in our office for review during normal business hours with prior request.

We routinely complete water storage facility inspections, and we utilize a Bacteriological Monitoring Plan. Chlorine residual is routinely tested by our technicians, and results show that the required minimum free chlorine residual level of 0.2 mg/L is maintained. To further ensure safe drinking water for our customers, we have also established a Cross-Connection Policy. Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by protecting our source water. Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints and waste oil.

### Information about Lead

*As required by ADEM, we conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory during 2024: Lead service lines were not found in our distribution system, nor are there any records of Lead service lines ever being in our system. The Lead Service Line Inventory report and results from our latest round of Lead/Copper sampling are available for review in our office upon request.*

We perform lead and copper testing on samples collected within the distribution system every three years as assigned by ADEM. An outside laboratory analyzes the samples, and results have always been well below the MCL. You may view the results in our office upon request. If you have any questions about our lead sampling results, contact us at 251-675-2297.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and 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.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in household plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your kitchen sink tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking, especially if the water has been sitting undisturbed for several hours, as in overnight. In all situations, *especially for making baby formula*, drink or cook only with water that comes out of the cold tap. Warm or hot tap water is more likely to cause lead to leach from plumbing materials. Periodically remove the aerator on the tip of the faucet and wash out any debris such as metal particles. Remember - Boiling will NOT reduce the amount of lead in your water.

The recommendations above are likely to be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your house. 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 your family's exposure is available from www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Water systems are required to sample for lead in schools and licensed child care facilities as requested by the facility. Contact your school or child care facility for further information about potential sampling results.

**General Drinking Water Information**

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 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 (800-426-4791).

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and it 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 storm water run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required. Public water systems in Alabama are not generally required to routinely monitor for radon in drinking water under current federal or state regulations. If you are concerned about radon in your home consider having the home tested. Testing is easy and inexpensive. For more information call EPA's Radon Hotline at (800-SOS-RADON).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. People who are immuno-compromised such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, HIV/AIDS positive or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk 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) or on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Chad Hennis, Superintendent, at 251-675-2297 or via email at chad.kushlawater@gmail.com. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held the last Tuesday of each month at the water office at 4:00 p.m. at the water office at 6210 Hwy 45, Eight Mile. Please call the water office for the exact day of the month.

**Monitoring Schedule and Results**

Our water system monitors for contaminants according to a schedule assigned to us by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), using EPA approved methods and a State certified laboratory. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring performed in accordance with the State and Federal regulatory schedule. ADEM allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| Constituents Monitored | Date Monitored |
|---|---|
| Inorganic Contaminants | 2025 |
| Lead/Copper | 2025 |
| Microbiological Contaminants | current |
| Nitrates | 2025 |
| Radioactive Contaminants | 2025 |
| Synthetic Organic Contaminants | 2025 |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | 2025 |
| Disinfection By-products | 2025 |
| PFAS Contaminants | 2020 |

As you can see by the table below, our system had no MCL violations. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds federal and state requirements.

| TABLE OF DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminants** | **Violation Y/N** | **Level Detected** | **Unit Msmt** | **MCLG** | **MCL** | **Likely Source of Contamination** |
| Copper | NO | 0.21 [1] (0.0032-0.71) | ppm | 1.3 | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead | NO | 0.0016 [2] (ND-0.0023) | ppm | 0 | AL=0.015 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits |
| TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] | NO | LRAA Range 41.8-64.8 | ppb | 0 | 80 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids] | NO | LRAA Range 20.3-23.8 | ppb | 0 | 60 | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| **Unregulated Contaminants** | | | | | | |
| Chloroform | NO | 1.4-2.9 | ppb | 70 | n/a | Naturally occurring; industrial discharge; agricultural runoff |
| Bromodichloromethane | NO | ND-3.1 | ppb | 0 | n/a | Naturally occurring; industrial discharge; agricultural runoff |
| Chlorodibromomethane | NO | ND-3.3 | ppb | 60 | n/a | Naturally occurring; industrial discharge; agricultural runoff |
| **Secondary Contaminants** | | | | | | |
| Chloride | NO | 8.8 | ppm | n/a | 250 | Naturally occurring; agricultural runoff |
| Hardness | NO | ND | ppm | n/a | n/a | Naturally occurring or from treatment with water additives |
| Iron | NO | ND | ppm | n/a | 0.30 | Naturally occurring; erosion; leaching from pipes |
| pH | NO | 7.4 | S.U. | n/a | n/a | Naturally occurring or from treatment with water additives |
| Sodium | NO | 61.5 | ppm | n/a | n/a | Naturally occurring in the environment |
| Total Dissolved Solids | NO | 142 | ppm | n/a | 500 | Naturally occurring; industrial discharge; agricultural runoff |
| Zinc | NO | ND | ppm | n/a | 5 | Erosion; factory & refinery discharge; landfill runoff |

[1] Figure shown is 90th percentile of latest round of sampling, and 0 sites exceeded the Action Level (AL).
[2] Figure shown is 90th percentile of latest round of sampling, and 3 sites exceeded the Action Level (AL).

**PFAS:** Below is a list of PFAS contaminants for which our system monitored in 2020 as required and the results of that monitoring. *PFAS was not detected in our drinking water.*

| PFAS Contaminants | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contaminant** | **Unit Msmt** | **Level Detected** | | **Contaminant** | **Unit Msmt** | **Level Detected** |
| 11Cl-PF3OUdS (11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid) | ppb | ND | | Perfluoroheptanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| 9Cl-PF3ONS (9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid) | ppb | ND | | Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid | ppb | ND |
| ADONA (4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid) | ppb | ND | | Perfluorononanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| HFPO-DA (Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acidA) | ppb | ND | | Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid | ppb | ND |
| NEtFOSAA (N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid) | ppb | ND | | Perfluorooctanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| NMeFOSAA (N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid0 | ppb | ND | | Perfluorotetradecanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid | ppb | ND | | Perfluorotridecanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| Perfluorodecanoic acid | ppb | ND | | Perfluoroundecanoic acid | ppb | ND |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid | ppb | ND | | Total PFAS | ppb | ND |
| Perfluorododecanoic acid | ppb | ND | | | | |

*For more information on PFAS contaminants, please consult www.epa.gov/pfas*

**Plain Language Definitions**

**Action Level**: the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
**Coliform Absent (ca)**: laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
**Disinfection byproducts (DBPs)**: formed when disinfectants react with bromide or natural organic matter present in the source water.
**Distribution System Evaluation (DSE):** a 4-quarter study to test for disinfection byproducts in different areas of the distribution
**Hazard Index (HI):** used to determine health concerns associated with mixtures of certain PFAS in finished drinking water. An HI greater than 1 requires a system to take action.
**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)** – yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site
**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**: highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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.
**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)**: highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that disinfection 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.
**Micrograms per liter (ug/L)**: equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms.
**Microsiemens per centimeter (µs/cm)**: unit of measurement for Specific Conductance.
**Milligrams per liter (mg/L)**: equivalent to parts per million
**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)**: a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)**: a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
**Not Detected (ND)**: laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.
**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)**: corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.
**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)**: corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
**Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)**: corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000,000.
**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)**: corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.
**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)**: a measure of the radioactivity in water.
**Running Annual Average (RAA)**: yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site in the distribution system.
**Standard Units (S.U.)**: pH of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases.
**Treatment Technique (TT)**: a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
**Unregulated Contaminant**s: contaminants for which the EPA has not established MCLs.
**Variances & Exemptions (V&E)**: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Below is a table of contaminants for which we monitor as required on a schedule set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

**STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS**

| Contaminant | MCL | Unit of Msmt | Detections | Contaminant | MCL | Unit of Msmt | Detections |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bacteriological Contaminants** | | | | 1,1-Dichloroethylene | 7 | ppb | ND |
| Total Coliform Bacteria | <5% | Present or absent | absent | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene | 70 | ppb | ND |
| Fecal Coliform and E. coli | 0 | Present or absent | absent | trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene | 100 | ppb | ND |
| **Radiological Contaminants** | | | | Dichloromethane | 5 | ppb | ND |
| Beta/photon emitters | 4 | mrem/yr | ND | 1,2-Dichloropropane | 5 | ppb | ND |
| Alpha emitters | 15 | pCi/l | ND | Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate | 400 | ppb | ND |
| Combined radium | 5 | pCi/l | ND | Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate | 6 | ppb | ND |
| Uranium | 30 | pCi/l | ND | Dinoseb | 7 | ppb | ND |
| **Inorganic Chemicals** | | | | Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD] | 30 | ppb | ND |
| Antimony | 6 | ppb | ND | Diquat | 20 | ppb | ND |
| Arsenic | 10 | ppb | ND | Endothall | 100 | ppb | ND |
| Asbestos | 7 | MFL | ND | Endrin | 2 | ppb | ND |
| Barium | 2 | ppm | ND | Epichlorohydrin | TT | ppb | ND |
| Beryllium | 4 | ppb | ND | Ethylbenzene | 700 | ppb | ND |
| Cadmium | 5 | ppb | ND | Ethylene dibromide | 50 | ppb | ND |
| Chromium | 100 | ppb | ND | Glyphosate | 700 | ppb | ND |
| Copper | AL=1.3 | ppm | 0.0032-0.71 | Heptachlor | 400 | ppb | ND |
| Cyanide | 200 | ppb | ND | Heptachlor epoxide | 200 | ppb | ND |
| Fluoride | 4 | ppm | ND | Hexachlorobenzene | 1 | ppb | ND |
| Lead | AL=15 | ppb | ND-0.0.023 | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene | 50 | ppb | ND |
| Mercury | 2 | ppb | ND | Lindane | 200 | ppb | ND |
| Nitrate | 10 | ppm | ND | Methoxychlor | 40 | ppb | ND |
| Nitrite | 1 | ppm | ND | Oxamyl [Vydate] | 200 | ppb | ND |
| Selenium | .05 | ppm | ND | Polychlorinated biphenyls | 0.5 | ppb | ND |
| Thallium | .002 | ppm | ND | Pentachlorophenol | 1 | ppb | ND |
| **Organic Contaminants** | | | | Picloram | 500 | ppb | ND |
| 2,4-D | 70 | ppb | ND | Simazine | 4 | ppb | ND |
| Acrylamide | TT | TT | ND | Styrene | 100 | ppb | ND |
| Alachlor | 2 | ppb | ND | Tetrachloroethylene | 5 | ppb | ND |
| Benzene | 5 | ppb | ND | Toluene | 1 | ppb | ND |
| Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs] | 200 | ppt | ND | Toxaphene | 3 | ppb | ND |
| Carbofuran | 40 | ppb | ND | 2,4,5-TP(Silvex) | 50 | ppb | ND |
| Carbon tetrachloride | 5 | ppb | ND | 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene | .07 | ppb | ND |
| Chlordane | 2 | ppb | ND | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane | 200 | ppb | ND |
| Chlorobenzene | 100 | ppb | ND | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane | 5 | ppb | ND |
| Dalapon | 200 | ppb | ND | Trichloroethylene | 5 | ppb | ND |
| Dibromochloropropane | 200 | ppt | ND | Vinyl Chloride | 2 | ppb | ND |
| 1,2-Dichlorobenzene | 1000 | ppb | ND | Xylenes | 10 | ppb | ND |
| 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (para) | 75 | ppb | ND | **Disinfection Byproducts** | | | |
| o-Dichlorobenzene | 600 | ppb | ND | TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] | 80 | ppb | 41.8-64.8 |
| 1,2-Dichloroethane | 5 | ppb | ND | HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids] | 60 | ppb | 20.3-23.8 |

**LIST OF SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alkalinity, Total (as CA, $Co_3$) | Copper | Manganese | Specific Conductance |
| Aluminum | Corrosivity | Odor | Sulfate |
| Calcium, as Ca | Foaming agents (MBAS) | Nickel | Total Dissolved Solids |
| Carbon Dioxide | Hardness | pH | Zinc |
| Chloride | Iron | Silver | |
| Color | Magnesium | Sodium | |

**LIST OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aldicarb | Chloroethane | Hexachlorobutadiene | Propachlor |
| Aldicarb Sulfone | Chloroform | 3-Hydroxycarbofuran | N-Propylbenzene |
| Aldicarb Sulfoxide | Chloromethane | Isoprpylbenzene | Propachlor |
| Aldrin | O-Chlorotoluene | p-Isopropyltoluene | 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane |
| Bromoacetic Acid | P-Chlorotoluene | M-Dichlorobenzene | 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane |
| Bromobenzene | Dibromochloromethane | Methomyl | Tetrachloroethene |
| Bromochloromethane | Dibromomethane | Methomyl | Trichloroacetic Acid |
| Bromodichloromethane | 1,1-Dichloroethane | Methylene chloride | 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene |
| Bromoform | 1,3-Dichloropropane | Methyl tert-butyl ether | Trichloroethene |
| Bromomethane | 2,2-Dichloropropane | Metolachlor | Trichlorofluoromethane |
| Butachlor | 1,1-Dichloropropene | Metribuzin | 1,2,3-Trichloropropane |
| N-Butylbenzene | 1,3-Dichloropropene | MTBE | 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene |
| Sec-Butylbenzene | Dicamba | Naphthalene | 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene |
| Tert - Butylbenzene | Dichlorodifluoromethane | 1-Naphthol | |
| Carbaryl | Dieldrin | Paraquat | |

*More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).*