

# Blue Ridge Rural Water Company's System

## Passes all Water Quality Testing for Year Ending 2020

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) set restrictions and monitor public water systems for compliance with all drinking water standards. Blue Ridge Rural Water Company has been in compliance on every standard monitored. In addition to testing performed by these agencies, Blue Ridge performs over 200 tests each year on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with all standards and to protect the system's users from bacteria and water-borne illness.



Please recycle this report when finished.



## Explanation Of Technical Terms Used In This Report

- 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 Level Goal  
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.
- TT** Treatment Technique  
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- AL** Action Level  
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ppm** Parts per Million or Milligrams per Liter  
**mg/L** This corresponds to one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water; one minute in two years; or a single penny in \$10,000.
- ppb** Parts per Billion or Micrograms per Liter  
**ug/L** This corresponds to one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water; one minute in 2,000 years; or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- ND** Not Detected  
The constituent is not detected or is below detection limits.
- NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit  
Nephelometric turbidity is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- pCi/L** Pico Curies per Liter  
A measure of radioactivity in water.
- ALG** Action Level Goal  
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- 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 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.
- N/A** Not applicable
- AVG** Average  
Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

## For Service, Not-For-Profit

### Year Ending 2020

In 1996, the Federal Government reauthorized the Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires that all public water systems report annually on their compliance with the Act. This Water Quality Performance Report shows that Blue Ridge Rural Water Company met all standards of the Act for 2020. It is designed to communicate those standards to you, our valued customers, and to inform you about your drinking water and the advancements we have made in the past year in the pursuit of continued safe drinking water.

### Need To Know More?

If you would like more information about water treatment or quality, simply call the Blue Ridge Rural Water Company at (864) 895-1719 and ask for the Water Quality Supervisor or the General Manager. We will be happy to talk with you. Public participation information can be obtained by calling the same number.

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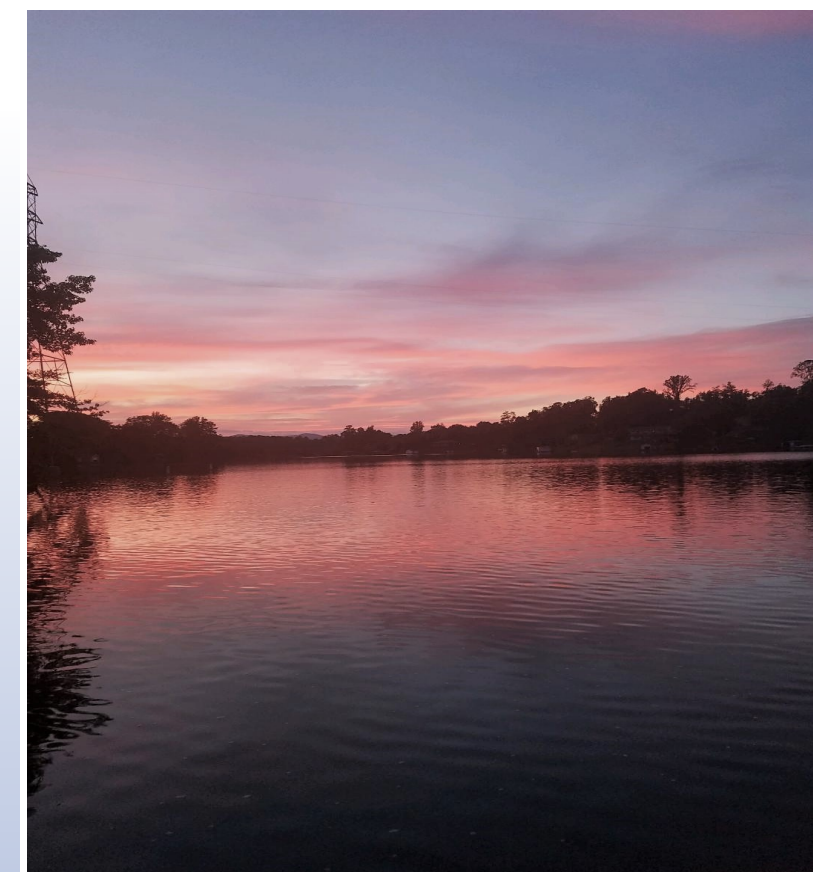
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## 2020 Water Quality Performance Report



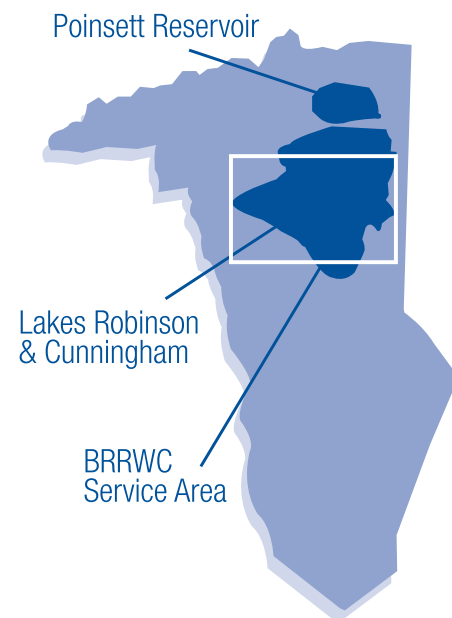
### Blue Ridge Water System



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## Where does the water come from?

Blue Ridge Rural Water Company draws its water from two different sites. The primary sources of water are Lakes Robinson and Cunningham. Lake Cunningham is the intake for the water. Lake Robinson, built in the early 1970s, is the future supply of water in the 150 square mile area encompassing the service areas of Greer Commission of Public Works (CPW) and Blue Ridge Rural Water Company.



Currently, our contract allows us to withdraw up to 4.6 million gallons per day. Through contract terms, this quantity will increase every five years to allow for growth.

The secondary source is the Poinsett Reservoir, owned and managed by the Greenville Water System. We currently can withdraw nearly three-quarters of a million gallons per day from this source.

## What about chemical treatment of my water?

Blue Ridge Rural Water Company is a distribution company. It purchases the bulk of its water from the Greer CPW. The Commission treats the water with a chlorine/ammonia combination for disinfection to protect against water-borne illnesses. A small amount of caustic soda is added for pH control, a polyphosphate is added for corrosion control, and fluoride is added for tooth decay prevention. Greer CPW treats 80 percent of all water distributed to our members. The Greenville Water System is our secondary source. It treats its water in the same way as Greer CPW.

**Because Blue Ridge Rural Water Company is supplied by two sources, the Source Water Assessment Programs and Plans must be obtained by the suppliers. For more information or to obtain a copy of the plan, you may contact Greer CPW at (864) 848-5527 or Greenville Water System at (864) 241-7838.**

## The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that annual Water Quality Reports contain the following statements:

- 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
- 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.
- 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/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
- Unfiltered water may contain organisms such as viruses, bacteria, and giardia. When they are present in sufficient number, these organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, cramps, headaches, and fatigue. The EPA has determined that these organisms can be controlled more effectively by requiring water systems to filter this water rather than set a MCL (maximum contaminant level).
- 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. Blue Ridge Rural Water Company is responsible for providing high quality 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 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. 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>.
- 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, 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 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; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Blue Ridge Rural Water Company (2320003) Visit [www.brrwc.org/water-quality-report](http://www.brrwc.org/water-quality-report)

The table lists all the drinking water contaminants detected during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, testing was conducted during the January 1 to December 31, 2020 period. The state requires us to monitor for these contaminants, but they are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though more than one year old, is representative of the system's compliance based on EPA's sampling frequency requirement.

### COPPER AND LEAD CONTAMINANTS

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units of Measure	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead – Customer Plumbing	2018	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper – Customer Plumbing	2018	1.3	0.247	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units of Measure	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine*	2020	2.20	2.10– 2.20	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2020	25.0	3.5– 36.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2020	31.0	17.0 – 45.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\* Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

### SC2310005 GREER CPW (2310005)

Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units of Measure	Violation Y/N	Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	0.65	0.59 – 0.65	4	4	ppm	N	2020	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
Nitrate	0.27	0.27	10	10	ppm	N	2020	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

### 2310001 GREENVILLE WATER

Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Units of Measure	Violation Y/N	Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	0.67	0.52 – 0.67	4	4	ppm	N	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
Nitrate	0.56	ND – 0.56	10	10	ppm	N	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

## Important Information About Your Drinking Water

**Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants for Greer CPW & Greenville Water System –** Our water systems have sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Greer CPW at (864) 848-5500 or P.O. Box 216 Greer, South Carolina 29652 or Greenville Water System at (864) 241-7838 or 407 West Broad Street Greenville, South Carolina 29601.

### FINISHED WATER ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS – SC2310005 GREER CPW – GENERAL INTEREST CONSTITUENTS

Parameter	Units	2019 Average
Alkalinity	ppm	15.81
Ammonia	ppm	1.00
Hardness	ppm	10.19
Potassium	ppm	0.36
pH	SU	8.01
Phosphate	ppm	0.22
Sodium	ppm	11.00

### FINISHED WATER SECONDARY STANDARDS – 2310001 GREENVILLE WATER

Parameter	Units	MCL	Range	Average	Possible Sources
Chloride	ppm	250	3.2 – 7.4	4.5	Soil runoff.
Color	color	15	ND – 6	ND	Naturally occurring.
Iron	ppb	300	ND – 0.24	0.01	Soil runoff; pipe material.
Manganese	ppb	50	ND – 0.06	ND	Soil runoff.
pH	SU	6.5 – 8.5	7.0 – 8.3	7.5	Controlled at treatment plant.
Solids (Total Dissolved)	ppm	500	24 – 56	43	Soil runoff.
Zinc	ppm	5	ND	ND	Drinking water additive.
Sulfate	ppm	250	3.3 – 7.5	4.7	Drinking water additive.
Aluminum	ppm	0.05 – 0.20	ND	ND	Drinking water additive.
Silver	ppm	0.10	ND	ND	Some home water treatment filters; mining operations.