

Want to fix your schools?

First you have to fix your leadership

More than 90% of all Mississippi kids attend public schools. That means that 90% of the state's workforce, voters, parents, and leaders come from public schools. More than 60,000 teachers and support staff work in Mississippi's public schools, and Mississippi state government spends more than \$2 billion a year on public education. In addition, local taxpayers spend untold millions

more. Is it any wonder that the subject of public education is always at the forefront for most Mississippians?

It is no secret that Mississippi has struggled to improve its public school performance. No need to go through the statistics. We have some great public schools, but too many are failing or inadequate for the needs of their students. Too many kids go into the workforce or to col-

lege unprepared for the challenges they will face.

Each year the legislature, the Governor, the State Department of Education, and various public interest groups propose ideas to improve educational outcomes. Some ideas work around the margins, and others make no appreciable difference. Few have resulted in significant improvements.

Most often the debate is about a result of additional economic activities resulting from the Project.

The study found the project would generate annual average property tax payments of approximately \$14.7 million, including \$6.5 million in Louisiana and \$8.2 million in Mississippi each year — totaling \$441 million in property taxes

the level of funding and the method of distribution of dollars among competing education interests and school districts. And lack of adequate funds remains a problem in most districts. But there is really only one fix for a broken school or school district — good leadership and community support.

Until we figure out a way to give every school district a top notch superintendent, every school a competent principal,

in both states over 30 years. An executive summary of the report is posted on the Southern Cross Transmission website at www.southerncrosstransmission.com.

The project is expected to start construction in 2018 and begin delivering power in 2021. Project employment during the peak of the construction phase is anticipated to exceed 650 jobs.

and every classroom a qualified teacher, we will not improve the system. It does not matter how much we spend. It will not happen.

This year the legislature began the process of making every school superintendent position an appointed one. The argument is that moving from elected superintendents to appointments widens the pool of qualified applicants. That may be a good first step, but it is not

Southern Cross Transmission will hire locally whenever possible. Pattern Development has held vendor fairs in Louisiana and Mississippi to identify local vendors and contractors that are interested in participating. Pattern Development has extensive experience in developing innovative solutions to complex transmission problems. Pattern Development's team of transmission experts has developed previous transmission projects, including the Trans Bay Cable project under San Francisco Bay.

The Trans Bay Cable project is a groundbreaking submarine HVDC transmission line that was completed in 2010 and is presently serving up to 40% of San Francisco's and the northern peninsula's peak energy needs.

About Pattern Development, Pattern Development is a leader in developing renewable energy and transmission assets. With a long history in wind energy, Pattern Development's highly-experienced team has developed, financed and placed into operation more than 4,500 MW of wind and solar power projects. A strong commitment to promoting environmental stewardship drives the company's dedication in working closely with communities to create renewable energy projects. Pattern Development has offices in San Francisco, San Diego, Houston, New York, Toronto, Mexico City, Santiago, Chile, and Tokyo, Japan. For more information, visit www.patterndev.com.

enough. If the board that appoints the superintendent is incompetent or too political, they will not make a wise choice. And a bad superintendent is likely to make poor choices of principals and teachers.

In Mississippi we have both appointed and elected superintendents who are great leaders and run exemplary districts and both elected and appointed superintendents who are poor leaders who lead failing districts. In the end, just making all superintendents appointed will make little difference in overall educational performance.

We must insure that all school boards are careful in their selections, support their appointees, hire only competent teachers, manage their budgets effectively and are responsive to the needs of the community. To do that we have to have parents and taxpayers who demand better schools in their districts.

In the end, whether they are appointed or elected, putting qualified, committed people in charge is the only way to insure that high quality teaching and learning are going on in our classrooms. And that effort can only come from within our communities. There are no classrooms in the state capitol. School employees are local employees. They do not work for the state. They work for the taxpayers of the local school districts.

Want to fix your schools? First you have to fix your leadership. No amount of money or Common Core or 3rd grade gate or charter schools or vouchers or merit pay or any other top down program can fix a broken system. Just wanting better schools is not enough. Just like successful cities require competent mayors and council members, successful school districts require competent superintendents and board members. Parents and taxpayers have to demand success from school leadership, or subpar schools will continue to produce subpar results.

Cecil Brown is the former Chairman of House Education Committee and resides in Jackson.

Fish Day!

It's Time To Stock Your Pond!

Delivery Will Be: Tuesday, May 16

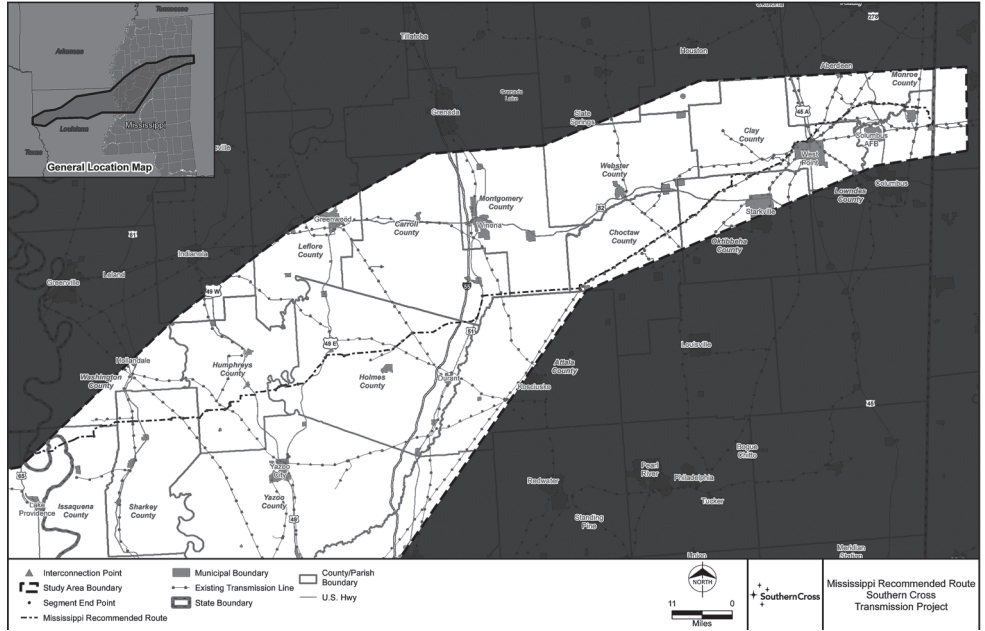
Lexington 2:45-3:30 @ Lexington Farm Supply

and Benton 4:15-5:00 @ CPS Crop Prod Services

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FISH WAGON

To Place an Order Call 1-800-643-8439 www.fishwagon.com



Pattern Development's proposed route map shows the land areas affected by the project, crossing the Mississippi River through the state and Holmes County, until reaching the converter station in Lowndes County. The Holmes County Board of Supervisors unanimously consented to the project's portion through the county. (Courtesy Photo)

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Lebanon Water Association
PWS# 0260011
April 2017

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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 providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Lebanon Water Association have received moderate ranking in terms of susceptibility to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jimmie D. Thomas at 662.834.2646. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please join us at any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Lebanon Office Building on HWY 7 N of Lexington.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2016. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2016, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water 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 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 and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is 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) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AcLMRDL	Unit Measure -ment	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
10. Barium	N	2015*	0102	0029 - 0102	ppm	2
13. Chromium	N	2015*	6.5	1.1 - 6.5	ppb	100
14. Copper	N	2012/14*	.1	0	ppm	1.3
16. Fluoride	N	2015*	.107	No Range	ppm	4
17. Lead	N	2012/14*	1	0	ppb	0
Disinfection By-Products						
81. HAA5	N	2014*	16	No Range	ppb	0
82. THM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2014*	19.1	No Range	ppb	0
Chlorine	N	2016	1.7	-.5 - 1.9	mg/l	0

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2016.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific constituents on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

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. Our water system 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/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Lebanon Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Tonah Valley Water Association
PWS# 260016
April 2017

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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 providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Upper Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Town of Tchula have received moderate rankings in terms of susceptibility to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jimmie D. Thomas at 662.235.5112. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please join us at any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM at City Hall.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2016. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2016, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 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 and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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Inorganic Contaminants						
10. Barium	N	2015*	0032	0014 - 0032	ppm	2
13. Chromium	N	2015*	1.1	1 - 1.1	ppb	100
14. Copper	N	2012/14*	.1	0	ppm	1.3
17. Lead	N	2012/14*	2	0	ppb	0
Disinfection By-Products						
81. HAA5	N	2014*	8	No Range	ppb	0
82. THM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2014*	11.32	No Range	ppb	0
Chlorine	N	2016	1	.08 - 1.5	mg/l	0

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2016.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific constituents on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

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. Our water system 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/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Town of Tchula works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

South Holmes Water Association
PWS# 02614
April 2017

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality 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 source is from wells drawing from the Cockfield Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the South Holmes Water Association have received low/moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Lonnie Sanders at 662.472.4405. 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 on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM at 6499 HWY 17 South, Pickens, MS.

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Inorganic Contaminants						
10. Barium	N	2016	.003	No Range	ppm	2
14. Copper	N	2012/14*	.4	0	ppm	1.3
17. Lead	N	2012/14*	2	0	ppb	0
Disinfection By-Products						
81. HAA5	N	2016	1.4	-.5 - 9	mg/l	0

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