

# 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

**HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 148**  
**PWS ID No. TX1010938 Phone No: 281-895-8547**

**WATER SOURCES:** 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 contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and
- 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, 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.

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. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

In the Water Loss Audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January – December 2015, our system lost and estimated 2,135,500 gallons of water. Overall, our system accounted for approximately 98 % of the water produced during that period. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call 281.895.8547.

## Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** 12402 Greensbrook Forest Dr  
Houston, Texas 77044

**Phone No:** 281-895-8547

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

## En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (281)895-8547 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources. The report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come in contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The system(s) from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact the system's business office.

## Information about Source Water Assessments

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL:  
<http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc>

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL:  
<http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

## Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all federally regulated or monitored contaminants, which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

## Water Quality Test Results

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level on contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	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.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
ppm:	Milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppb:	Micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
na:	Not applicable.
Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
TCR:	Total coliform rule
MFL	Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppt:	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq:	parts per quadrillion, or pictograms per liter (pg/L)

### Lead and Copper

#### Definitions:

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	9/24/2014	1.3	1.3	0.052	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	9/24/2014	0	15	1.4	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

“Required Additional Health Information of 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 the service lines and home building. This water supply 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>.”

**Regulated Contaminants**

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2015	19	18.5 – 18.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes	2015	11	11 - 11	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	5/20/2010	4	4-4	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits, Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	5/20/2010	0.276	0.276 – 0.276	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	7/30/2014	0.1	0.1 – 0.1	4	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2015	1	0.51 – 0.57	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]	2015	0.06	0.06 – 0.06	1	1	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	3/27/2012	4.3	4.3 – 4.3	0	50	pCi/L*	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Combined Radium 226/228	3/27/2012	1	1 – 1	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
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**\*\*\* In 2015, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 148 purchased water through an open interconnect from City of Houston. The following tables contain all of the chemical contaminants which have been found in their water.**

**Coliform Bacteria**

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive	15.7	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive	8	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

## Lead and Copper

### Definitions:

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2015	1.3	1.3	0.171	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2015	0	15	4	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2015	33	0 – 73.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	38	0 – 70.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2015	5.4	0 – 5.4	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2015	0.36	0.0465 – 0.36	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	2015	80	0 - 80	200	200	ppb	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel / metal factories.
Fluoride	2015	0.4	0 – 0.36	4	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2015	1	0 – 0.85	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2015	0.01	0 – 0.01	1	1	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium	2015	4	0 – 4	50	50	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2015	5.6	0 – 5.6	0	50	pCi/L*	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	2015	3	0 – 3.2	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2015	10	0 – 14	0	15	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2015	7.8	0 – 7.8	0	30	ug/l	No	Erosion of natural deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2015	0.25	0 – 0.25	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2015	6.2	0 – 6.2	0	6	ppb	No	Discharge from chemical
Simazine	2015	0.23	0 – 0.23	4	4	ppb	No	Herbicide runoff

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Xylenes	2015	0.0022	0 – 0.0022	10	10	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

#### Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.46 NTU	No	Soil Runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	No	Soil Runoff

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water Quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

#### Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violation section.

#### Violations Table

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/1/2015	2015	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Total Coliform
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL (TCR), MONTHLY	4/1/2015	4/30/15	Total coliform bacteria were found in out drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.
MCL (TCR), MONTHLY	5/1/2015	5/31/15	Total coliform bacteria were found in out drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.

#### Disinfectant Residual Table

Disinfectant	Year	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramine	2015	2.29	1.20	3.2	0.5	< 4.0	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

