

2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 217

PWS ID No. TX1011983

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; persons 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 infections 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>.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: 4rd Tuesday of Each Month

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 12248 T. C. Jester Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77067

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 completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence 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 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)

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	1 positive monthly sample	There were no TCR detections for this system in this CCR period		0	N	Naturally present in the environment

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)	2012	27	52.9 – 52.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2012	26	51.2 – 51.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	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
Barium	1/24/2011	0.0673	0.0673 – 0.0673	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	1/24/2011	0.32	0.32 – 0.32	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2012	1	1.22 – 1.23	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2012	0.01	0.01 – 0.01	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2012	0.44	0.43 – 0.44	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2012	0.78	0 - 0.78	0	6	ppb	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Simazine	2012	0.32	0 – 0.32	4	4	ppb	N	Herbicide runoff

Disinfectant Residual Reporting

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Disinfection Level Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR). On the CCR report, the system must provide disinfectant type, Minimum, maximum and average levels.

Year (Range)	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2012	Chloramines Total	2.83	1.83	3.60	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

**** In 2012, Harris County Municipal Utility District No 217 received water through an open interconnect from Harris County Municipal Utility District No 304. 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	1 positive monthly sample	There were no TCR detections for this system in this CCR period		0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection by-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	9/08/2011	1.2	1.2 – 1.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	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	2012	2.4	2.4 – 2.4	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	2012	0.481	0.481 – 0.481	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2012	0.2	0.2 – 0.2	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Benzene	2012	1	1.3	0	5	ppb	N	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Ethylbenzene	2012	0.8	0.8	700	700	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries

**** In 2012, Harris County Municipal Utility District No 217 purchased water through an open interconnect from Central Harris County Regional Water Authority. 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	1 positive monthly sample	There were no TCR detections for this system in this CCR period		0	No	Naturally present in the environment

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)*	8/23/2011	18.3	18.3 – 18.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	8/23/2011	16.1	16.1 – 16.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	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
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	8/23/2011	0.06	0.06 – 0.06	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits