

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT FOR 2008

Texas A&M University

(979-862-4606)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitors all public water systems within this state. The TCEQ has assessed our system and has determined that our water is safe to drink. As part of their ongoing monitoring of public water systems the TCEQ has requested us to provide you the following report. The Annual Drinking Water Report for 2008 is designed to inform you about the quality water we deliver for your use. This report is for the Texas A&M University Main Campus system (TCEQ PWS No. 0210017). 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 superior quality of your drinking water.

Texas A&M University pumps water from wells located on and north of the Riverside Campus. Texas A&M owns and produces water from seven wells. Four of these wells produce water from low volume, shallow aquifers and the other three produce from deep, high volume aquifers. Water from our deep wells is pumped through cooling towers to reduce their initial temperature from 130°F to 90°F. This makes a more desirable water temperature for use and improves our chlorination processes. Chlorination is the injection of chlorine gas into the water and assures potability. Riverside Campus has its own chlorination and distribution system. Excess water from Riverside Campus is mixed with the water from the Wellfield. This water is then pumped 7.5 miles through a dual pipeline system to our main storage tanks at the corner of F&B and Finfeather Roads. The water is again chlorinated. From this facility we deliver water to both the main campus and west campus. Our elevated water storage tank holds in excess of 2 million gallons of water that is used to maintain water pressure throughout the campus and provides reserves for things like firefighting. We maintain three interconnections with the City of College Station. This improves our reliability to deliver water to you in the event we have a major line break or equipment failure.

The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for the drinking water sources in this report. This assessment describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come in contact with your drinking water sources based on both human and natural conditions. This assessment allows us to focus our water protection activities.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Texas A&M University routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report is for the 2008 calendar year; however, we will be reporting data that was collected as far back as 2004. The requirements for producing this report require us to utilize data that is no older than five years and collected and analyzed under TCEQ direction. TCEQ is the state regulating-agency charged with maintaining water quality. The data we will present here is the most recent that meets these requirements. In all, over 4000 state-directed tests have been performed on your drinking water during the past 5 years. These include tests for 97 constituents required by the USEPA. Separate testing is performed specifically for lead and copper. We conduct annual sampling to check for trihalomethanes (by-products of chlorination). At least sixty times a month we sample for the coliform group of micro-organisms that may be present in the

water. Your water is continually being monitored. You will only see constituents listed in the following tables that have been detected in these samples.

DEFINITIONS.

In the following 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:

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 (µg/L) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - 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 (see next definition) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - 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.

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) – The highest level of disinfection allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of drinking water disinfection 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 contamination.

Coliforms - Total coliform bacteria are used as an indicator of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

TABLES

The following tables list all the federally regulated or monitored contaminants or constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The U. S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 potential water contaminants or constituents.

Total Coliform:

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL (% of Monthly Samples)	Unit of measure	Sources
2008	Total Coliform Bacteria	3	5	presence	Naturally present in the environment

Inorganic Contaminants:

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Units of measure	Possible Sources of Contaminant
2004	Barium	0.064	0.064	0.064	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2007-08	Fluoride	0.29	0.24	0.33	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additives which promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2008	Nitrate	0.07	0.05	0.09	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
2006-07	Nitrite	0.01	0	0.02	1	1	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average level	Minimum level	Maximum level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of measure	Sources
2008	Chlorine residual, free	1.76	0.2	8.8	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection By-Products

Year	Disinfectant or Contaminant	Average level	Minimum level	Maximum level	MCL	Unit of measure	Sources
2008	Total Haloacetic Acids	4.4	4.3	4.5	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2008	Total Trihalomethanes	13.4	8.4	18.3	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	90 th percentile	Sites exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Units of measure	Possible Sources of Contamination
2005	Lead	6.1	1	15	ppb	Corrosion of plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2005	Copper	0.24	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary and other constituents not regulated

Year or Range	Constituent	Average level	Minimum level	Maximum level	Secondary limit	Units of measure	Possible Source of Constituent
2007-08	Bicarbonate	373	336	409	na	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone
2004	Calcium	3	3	3	na	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2007-08	Chloride	66	57	74	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2004	Copper	0.004	0.004	0.004	1	ppm	Corrosion of plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2004	Manganese	.0046	.0046	.0046	0.50	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element
2007-08	pH	7.2	6.6	7.7	>7	units	Measure of corrosivity of water
2004	Sodium	206	206	206	na	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity
2007-08	Sulfate	31	22	39	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity
2007-08	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	305	275	335	na	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts
2007-08	Total Dissolved Solids	490	484	495	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water
2004	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	8	8	8	na	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS OR OTHER IMMUNE PROBLEMS

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 and Prevention (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 (800-426-4791).

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you with clean, quality water this year. Please call our office if you have questions. We are at work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. If you have any questions about this report or the water you are using, please contact us at the Utilities Division (979-862-4606) or by email to njones@utilities.tamu.edu.

Other numbers to call if you would like additional information on drinking water.

Brazos County Health Department	1-979-361-4450
TCEQ	1-512-239-1000
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline	1-800-426-4791