

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic organic contaminants, and chlorine residual levels. The table below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water.

2011 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

COLIFORM BACTERIA

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No. of Positive | 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. |

LEAD AND COPPER

Definitions: Action Level Goal (ALG): 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. Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment of other requirements which a water system must follow.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper | 2011 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.104 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of house |
| Lead | 2011 | 0 | 15 | 2.44 | 0 | ppb | N | 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 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)* | 05/04/2010 | 8.6 | 6.2 - 8.6 | No goal for the total | 80 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |

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.

| Year | Disinfectant | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Chemical |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Year the report covers | Disinfectant used | Average level of quarterly data for the year the report covers | Minimum result -single sample | Maximum result -single sample | 4.0 | <4.0 | ppm | Disinfectant used to control microbes |
| 2011 | Chlorine | .8075 | .04 | 2.2 | 4.0 | <4.0 | ppm | Disinfectant used to control microbes |

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Inorganic-Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arsenic | 2011 | 0.32 | .032-.032 | 0 | 10 | ppb | N | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium | 2011 | 0.00485- | 0.00485- | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chromium | 2011 | 1.35 | 1.35-1.35 | 100 | 100 | ppb | N | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits |

Substances that could be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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 or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 the taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Inorganic-Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fluoride | 2011 | 2.2 | 1.54-2.23 | 4 | 4.0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 2011 | 0.07- | 0-0.7- | 10 | 10 | ppm | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits |

Nitrate Advisory - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

| Radioactive Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Combined Radium | 2011 | 3.2 | 3.2-3.2 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits |

Information about Secondary Contaminants

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.

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 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/teq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtsrc=>

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

Definitions

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

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. Secondary MCL (SMCL) are set for the control of taste and odor.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

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.

MFL: million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

mrem/year: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

NA: Not applicable

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb (part per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food, on our skin, in our bodies, and in the air, soil and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

Throughout the year, we tested 48 samples (4 samples every month) for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water that tests positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2011. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with high-quality drinking water.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. Should you ever have any questions or concerns, we are always available to assist you.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Our drinking water is obtained from groundwater sources. The groundwater comes from the WOODBINE and Antler Sands (Trinity) Aquifers. We also have the ability to purchase surface water; however, at this time we do not utilize this source.

Important Health Information

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, those 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 the advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



In 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. The Van Alstyne Public Works is 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 drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 600 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color show up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Andrew Figueroa, Department of Public Works: (903) 482-5426.

Public Participation Opportunities

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Date: | 2nd Tues of Every Month |
| Time: | 6:30 p.m. |
| Location: | Community Center 262 N. Preston Van Alstyne, TX |
| Phone: | (903) 482-5426 |

Fact vs Fiction

There's the same amount of water on Earth now as there was when the Earth was formed. (Fact: The water that comes from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!)

About half the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking. (Fiction: Actually, the amount used for cooking and drinking is less than 1 percent of the total water produced!)

A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water. (Fact: Dehydration symptoms generally become noticeable after only 2 percent of one's normal water volume has been lost.)

The first water pipes in the United States were made of cast iron. (Fiction: The first water pipes were actually made of fire-charred bored logs.)

The world's first municipal water filtration plant was opened in the United States. (Fiction: The first plant was actually opened in Paisley, Scotland, in 1832.)

A person must consume a half-gallon of water daily to live healthily. (Fact: A person should drink at least 64 ounces, or 8 cups, of water each day.)

One gallon of gasoline poured into a lake can contaminate approximately 750,000 gallons of water. (Fact.)