The Most Important Thing For Life

2003 Annual Water Quality Report

The City of Baytown

PWS ID #1010003

We're pleased to present to you this 2003 Annual Water Quality 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 drinking water is obtained from surface water sources. It comes from the Trinity River. The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources that we own as well as for the system from which we purchase water. This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water sources based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in this assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection activities. Contact our water system for more information about these reports.

The Baytown Area Water Authority treats your water using conventional coagulation, sedimentation, disinfection, and filtration to remove or reduce possible harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. Ferric Chloride and a coagulant aid Cationic Polymer achieve coagulation. The treated water is then filtered through anthracite coal, sand and gravel. Disinfection is achieved by the addition of ammonia and chlorine, which forms monochloromines.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Baytown Area Water Authority by calling 281-426-3517 for English or 281-420-6518 for Spanish or writing to 2123 Market Street, Baytown, TX 77521. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. You can attend a scheduled City Council meeting on July 8, 2004, at 6:00 PM, in the Baytown City Hall Council Chambers, for more information please call 281-422-8281.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o' discussions sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de liamar al tel. 281-420-6518 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

EPA Wants You To Know:

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 animals or from human activity.

Contaminants 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, 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, 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

2003 Monitoring Results for Contaminants in Drinking Water

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)

Contaminant	Unit	MCLG Health Goal	MCL EPA's Limits	Level Detected	Range Detected	Violation (Yes / No)	Year[1] Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform Bacteria[3]	highest monthly % positive	0	Presence of coliform bacteria ≥5% of monthly samples	4.55%	NA	NO	2003	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity[2]	NTU	NA	0.3	0.32	100% met limits	NO	2003	Soil Runoff.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Gross Beta	pCi/L	0	50	6.2	NA	NO	1999	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0388	NA	NO	2003	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 = AL	0.498 (90th percentile)	All sites below AL	NO	2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.6	NA	NO	2003	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead	ppb	0	15 = AL	4.1 (90th percentile)	All sites below AL	NO	2003	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.99	NA	NO	2003	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	15.4	6.1 - 41.2	NO	2003	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	ppb	0	80	31.725	27.6 - 38.5	NO	2003	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

Non-Regulated Substances: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Substance	Unit	Level Detected	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	8.8	2003	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Chloroform	ppb	27	2003	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
Dibromochloromethane	ppb	1.2	2003	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

NOTES:

[1]The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

[2]Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

[3]Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. 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.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 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.

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

Treatment Technique (or TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).

PPM (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l).

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

Water Conservation Tips

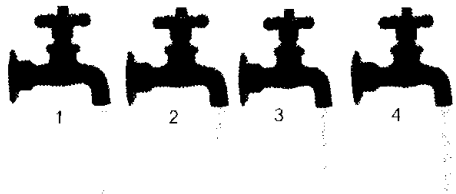
Water conservation measures not only save the supply of our water source, but can also cut the cost of water treatment by saving energy. Here are some conservation measures you can take:

At Home:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Don't use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Don't let the water run while shaving, washing, or brushing teeth.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

Outdoors:

- Water the lawn and garden as little as possible.
- Choose plants that don't need much water.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.
- Obey any and all water bans or regulations.



	gallons / month
1. a slow steady drip (100 drops a minute)	350
2. a fast drip	600
3. a small stream	2,000-2,700
4. a large stream	4,600