

2003 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

HARRIS COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 61

13205 Cypress-N. Houston Rd., Cypress, Texas 77429

Telephone (281) 469-9405

June 8, 2004

Your Drinking Water Is Safe

It is the highest priority of your water district to provide you and your family with a dependable supply of safe clean drinking water. The district has never violated any water quality standard and has been rated a Superior Public Water System. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed the District's system and determined that the water is safe to drink. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water. This report is sent to you pursuant to EPA regulations and the Safe Drinking Water Act and will be sent to you each year.

Where Do We Get Your Drinking Water?

Your drinking water is obtained from ground water sources (The Gulf Coast Aquifer, Chico & Evangeline). The quality of the water from District wells is high. District employees monitor it on a regular basis. It is tested for contaminants as required by law. In addition, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s). This report 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 this assessment will allow us to focus on our source water protection activities.

Public Participation Opportunities

Board of Directors Meet:

Second, Third, & Fourth Wednesday
of each month

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Location: 13205 Cypress-
N. Houston Rd.

Telephone: 281-469-9405

24 hour emergency number

If you have specific questions about the information in this report ask for: Jerry Homan, General Manager or Ken Gillis, Field Operations Manager.

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).

ALL Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

Since your drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

About The Following Pages

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

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 concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level

(MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant 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 health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

ppm - Parts per million or milligrams per liter

ppb - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter

ppt - Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

pCi/l - Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Inorganics

Year	Constituent	Highest Level at any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Arsenic	6.6	0.0000-6.6000	50	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2003	Barium	0.2580	0.1630-0.2580-	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Fluoride*	0.8	0.1000 - 0.8000	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2003	Nitrate	0.16	0.0100-0.1600	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
1999	Nitrite	0.02	0.0200-0.0200	1	1	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Selenium	6.7	0.0000-6.7000	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2003	Gross alpha adjusted	8.9	0.0000-8.9000	15	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Combined Radium 226 & 228	0.8	0.8000-0.8000	5	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Gross Beta Emitters	5.1	0.0000-5.1000	50	0	pci/l	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.

* Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 61 does not add fluoride to your water.

Organics NOT TESTED FOR OR NOT DETECTED

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Total Trihalo-methanes	3.6	8.30-8.30	100	0	ppb	By product of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2003-2003	Bromoform	0.15	0.000-0.6000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003-2003	Bromodichloromethane	0.125	0.0000-0.5000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.
2003-2003	Dibromochloromethane	0.2	0.0000-0.80000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Required Additional Health Information For Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic will be decreasing from 0.05 mg/l (CCR - 50 ppb) to 0.01 mg/l (CCR - 10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. EPA and States are still discussing the level. Until these issues are worked out, TCEQ is providing the following health effects language according to new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting.

Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is between 5 ppb and 10 ppb, this information is required by the EPA.

"While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems."

Thank you for your interest in your drinking water. If you have any questions or comments, please call our office at (281) 469-9405.

The Board of Directors and Staff

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 61