

City Of South Houston

2003 Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

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)

How Will I Know If There's A Problem With My Water?

If the amount of a contaminant exceeds a predetermined safe level in your drinking water (MCL, Action Level, etc.), we will notify you via newspapers, radio, TV and other means within 24 hours. With the notification, you will be instructed on what appropriate actions you can take to protect your family's health.

OUR DRINKING WATER MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL (EPA) DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS

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.

Each day, we work hard to bring you the best quality water possible. If you have any questions concerning your drinking water quality or would like to have your water tested, call the City of South Houston Water Department at (713) 947-7700, ext. 20, 23, 24.

En Espanol

Esta reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (713) 947-7700 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Where do we get our drinking water from?

Our drinking water is obtained from Ground and Surface water sources. It comes from the following Lake / River / Reservoir / Aquifer: GULF COAST, SAN JACINTO RIVER and TRINITY RIVER. The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for the drinking water source(s) that we own as well as for the system(s) from which we purchase water. This report describe the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. Contact our water system for more information about these reports.

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

When 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 the 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 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.

DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest permissible 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)

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

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

DATE: 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: MUNICIPAL COURT

PHONE NO.: (713) 947 - 7700

Total Coliform NOT DETECTED

Fecal Coliform NOT DETECTED

COLIFORMS

What are coliforms?

Coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because they are easily detected and found in the digestive tract of warm blooded animals. While not themselves disease producers, they are often found in association with other microbes that are organisms; therefore their absence from water is a good indication that the water is bacteriologically safe for human consumption.

Fecal coliform (mostly E-coli), is a portion of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals that passes into the environment as feces. Fecal coliform is often used as an indicator of the fecal contamination of domestic water supply.

Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Constituent	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2003-2003	Chloroform	11.52	0.6000-15.0000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003-2003	Bromoform	1.22	0.0000-6.1000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003-2003	Bromodichloromethane	3.36	2.2000-3.9000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2003-2003	Dibromochloromethane	1.68	0.5000-6.3000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants

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.

Year	Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Turbidity	*	*	0	NTU	Soil runoff.

*** TURBIDITY DATA NOT FURNISHED TO TNRC. WATER SYSTEM MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION.**

Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2001	Copper	0.1160	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
2001	Lead	3.4000	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Inorganics

Year	Constituent	Highest Level at Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2002	Barium	0.052	0.0420-0.0520	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Fluoride	1.4	0.8000-1.4000	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2002	Nitrate	0.57	0.4300-0.5700	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
1999	Nitrite	0.02	0.0000-0.0200	1	1	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Gross alpha adjusted	19.6	0.0000-19.6000	15	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Combined Radium 226 & 228	3.9	0.1000-3.9000	5	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Gross beta emitters	21.4	0.0000-21.4000	50	0	pci/l	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

NA = MCL not applicable - not regulated. Special Monitoring Requirement.

Organics

Year	Constituent	Highest Average of Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003-2003	Atrazine	0.12	0.0000-0.1400	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

Disinfection By-Products

Year	Constituent	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Total Haloacetic Acids	21.1	6.20-42.70	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Total Trihalomethanes	33.3	12.90-61.80	100	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.