City of West University Place

A Neighborhood City

2002 Annual Consumer Report on the Quality of Tap Water

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the City of West University Place. It meets the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to our community.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates our Drinking Water. The City of West University Place drinking water meets all of the requirements of the Federal Drinking Water Standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular City Council Meetings occur the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 PM, at the Municipal Building, 3800 University Blvd. The public is welcome. Consult our Web site at http://www.westu.org. For further information; see U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/

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 is 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

EN ESPANOL

Este 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) 662-5846 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Overview

During 2002 the City of West University Place completed improvements to the drinking water distribution infrastructure in many areas of town. More improvements are underway with more yet planned for future years. The City is dedicated to providing a secure water system for all its residents. The USEPA has assigned a Water System ID Number to our water system - **TX1010027.** This number should be used if requesting information from the EPA or TCEQ in regards to our water system.

Water Source

The City of West University Place provides an 80/20 mix of surface water and groundwater. The surface water is purchased from the City of Houston. The ground water is provided from three water wells owned and operated by the City of West University Place. The well water is pumped from the Evangeline Aquifer in the Gulf Coastal Sands with the pumps set at approximately 560 feet. The surface water is pumped from the City of Houston's Southwest Surface Water Treatment Plant. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission has reviewed all of Texas' drinking water sources. The source water assessment for our system is complete and available on request.

An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the minutest traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

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

Key To Tables

AL	= Action Level
MCLG	= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MCL	= Maximum Contaminant Level
MFL	= million fibers per liter
NTU	= Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pci/l	= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppt	= parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	= parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
mrems/year	= millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppm	= parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)
TT	= Treatment Technique

Many of these contaminants are on a three-year testing schedule as per the USEPA and TNRCC regulations. Most will be tested for again during 2003.

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Lead	2002	ppb	AL=15	0	0.0023	0.0012-0.0023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	2002	ppm	2	2	0.047	0.044-0.047	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	2002	ppm	10	10	0.65	0.064-0.065	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	1999	ppm	1	1	0.02	0.02 – 0.02	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2002	ppm	AL= 1.3	0	0.013	0.006-0.013	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	2002	ppm	4	4	0.4	0.4-0.4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Be sure to read the additional information concerning lead in our drinking water on page 5. No violations occurred with the inorganic contaminants. Lead and Copper did exist above the MCLG but not above the MCL.

Disinfection Byproducts	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
THAA [Total Haloacetic Acids]	2002	ppb	60	0	28.07- Average of all sampling	8.30-47.80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethane]	2002	ppb	80	0	27.26– Average of all sampling	11.90-39.80	By-product of drinking water chlorination

While we did see a presence of Volatile Organic contamination this is a by-product of disinfecting the water with chlorine. Chlorine is still the most accepted and the best available technology for disinfecting drinking water. The highest detected sample was still less than the MCL. We test for these byproducts once each quarter of the year.

The unregulated contaminant monitoring aids the USEPA in determining the need for regulations. The contaminants in the following table are a part of the TTHMs in the table above. They are not regulated therefore there is no MCL or MCLG published for them.

Unregulated Contaminants	Date Tested	Unit	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources
Chloroform	2002	ppb	18.96- Average	6.30-28.40	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dichlorobromomethane	2002	ppb	7.53- Average	4.60-10.70	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	2002	ppb	0.76- Average	0.00-3.00	By-product of drinking water chlorination

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.

Turbidity	Date Tested	Highest Single Measurement	Unit	Range	MCL	MGLC	Major Sources
Turbidity	2002	0.15	NTU	0.02-0.15	1	0	Soil runoff.

Microbiological testing did not reveal the presence of any known disease producing bacteria or viruses. There was determination of the presence of Coliform bacteria.

Microbiological Contaminants	Date Tested	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Major Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria [1]	2002	1	Two Or More coliform found samples in any single month	Presence	Naturally present in the environment

Water Quality Table - Footnotes [1]**- Repeat sampling indicated no total coliform, fecal or e-Coli present.**

What are Coliforms?

Total Coliform Bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing 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 hardier than many disease-causing organisms; therefore their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Fecal Coliform Bacteria and, in particular E. coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (E. Coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material.

The preceding table showed that only total coliform was found in any sample submitted for testing by West University Place last year.

The following table lists all violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act for the year 2002.

Violation	Explanation	Health Effects	Duration	Steps to Correct
No Violations				

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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).

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 radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in any source water include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
(E) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Concerning Lead in Our Water

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

City of West University Place
Public Works Operations
3826 Amherst
West University Place, TX 77005

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

Patrick Walters, Operations Superintendent for the City of West University Place, prepared this report. Mr. Walters holds a Grade A Waterworks Operators certification, the highest issued by the State of Texas. Mr. Walters has 26 years experience producing and delivering drinking water to consumers.

We'll be happy to answer any questions about City of West University Place and our water quality. Call Patrick J. Walters at 713-662-5858.

Water Quality Data for community water systems throughout the United States is available on the Internet at www.waterdata.com.

Learn more about the City of West University Place and your drinking water system on the Internet at http://www.westu.org

The City of West University Place is proud to be a member of AWWA.

American Water Works Association
Dedicated to Safe Drinking Water