

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

NORTHTOWN Municipal Utility District

Office Phone No. (512) 335-7580

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. The 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 (1-800-426-4791).

Public Participation Opportunities

The Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. at 2106 Klattenhoff, Austin, Texas. Please call (512) 335-7580 to confirm meeting dates and times.

The District's water system is operated by SouthWest Water Company. If you have any questions concerning water quality or the source of your water, please call our Regulatory Department at (512) 219-2272 or (512) 219-2294.

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's in your drinking water.

WATER SOURCES: 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 before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

En Español

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español favor de llamar al tel (512) 335-7580 para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

The drinking water in this system comes from the combination of water purchased from the City of Austin and water purchased from the City of Pflugerville. TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

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 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).

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

About the Following Pages

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

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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

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 contamination.

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.

ABBREVIATIONS

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 (mg/L)

ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Inorganic Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
2008	Fluoride (ppm)	0.56	0.1	1.3	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2008	Nitrate (ppm)	1.04	0.19	2.05	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2007	Arsenic (ppb)	1.0	0	2.0	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2007	Barium (ppm)	0.056	0.055	0.056	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2006	Chromium (ppm)	3	0	6	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
2006	Thallium (ppb)	0.6	0	1.19	2	0.5	Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories.
2006	Combined Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L)	0.45	0	0.9	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
2006	Gross beta emitters (pCi/L)	1.45	0	2.9	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2006	Gross alpha (pCi/L)	2.9	1.5	4.3	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Organic Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
2007	Atrazine (ppb)	0.85	0	1.7	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Source of Disinfectant
2008	Chlorine (ppm)	1.6	1.0	2.3	4	4	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Total Haloacetic Acids	17.4	17.4	17.4	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2008	Total Trihalomethanes	34.5	34.5	34.5	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts WAIVED OR NOT YET SAMPLED

Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Bromodichloromethane	12.4	1.0	31.2	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2008	Dibromochloromethane	20.38	1.0	42.1	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
1999	Lead	0.5	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
1999	Copper	0.003	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

If 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. This water supply is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Turbidity

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	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Source of Contaminant	
2008	Turbidity (NTU)	0.69	100	0.3	Soil runoff.	

*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.

Total Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Limit	Source of Contaminant
2008	Bicarbonate (ppm)	380	373	387	NA	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2007	Calcium (ppm)	70.1	35.2	105	NA	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2008	Chloride (ppm)	35.5	32	39	300	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008	Hardness as Ca/Mg (ppm)	311	306	317	NA	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2007	Sodium (ppm)	35	28	42	NA	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2008	pH (units)	7.55	7.5	7.6	>7	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2008	Sulfate (ppm)	45.5	44	47	300	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ (ppm)	311	306	317	NA	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2008	Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	441	425	458	1000	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

P.W.S. #2270264