This is Your Annual Report on Drinking Water Quality

What Are Drinking Water Standards?
Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA sets standards for approximately 90 contaminants in drinking water. For each of these contaminants, EPA sets a legal limit, called a maximum contaminant level, or requires a certain treatment. Water suppliers may not provide water that doesn’t meet these standards. Water that meets EPA standards is safe to drink.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 1999, is the main federal law that ensures the quality of Americans’ drinking water. Under SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. The SDWA covers all public water systems with piped water for human consumption with at least 15 service connections or a system that regularly serves at least 25 individuals.

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 simply calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

Important Information
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, and persons 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).

Why Do I Need to Read This?
A survey conducted by the American Water Works Research Foundation in 1993 found that nearly two-thirds of water consumers surveyed said they received “very little” or “no” information on the quality of their water. The water quality reports will increase the availability of information. Informed and involved citizens can be strong allies of water systems, large and small, as they take action on pressing problems. Also, an increase in public awareness can give sensitive sub-populations the information that they need to protect themselves. Drinking water can come from either ground water sources (via wells) or surface water sources (such as rivers, lakes, and streams).

Nationally, most water systems use a ground water source (80%), but most people (60%) are served by a system that uses surface water. This is because large metropolitan areas tend to rely on surface water, whereas small and rural areas tend to rely on ground water. In addition, 10–20% of people have their own private well for drinking water.

Where Can I Get More Information?
Information on water quality in your area is available from several sources, including your local public health department and your water supplier. You can determine whom to contact by checking your water bill or by calling your local town hall. You can also contact your state drinking water program or call EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. EPA has also prepared a citizen’s guide to drinking water called “Water on Tap: A Consumer’s Guide to the Nation’s Drinking Water.”

Terminology
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 stormwater 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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.

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.
2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Andrews Water Utilities

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 include persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, and persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. These conditions prevent the body from fighting infection efficiently. Some chemicals and infectious agents may affect people of all ages and health conditions differently. Infants, cancer patients, immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, and persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders may 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 chlorine doses to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Our drinking water is obtained from Groundwater sources. It comes from the Ogallala Aquifer (TCEQ) compliance analysis of our source water. Results and calculations for our source water system are based on the test results and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we treat our/potable water from another source, their susceptibility is not included in this report. For more information on water sources, water assessments and precautions effects on us, please contact us.

ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS

When drinking water meets federal standards there may be no health-based benefits to purchasing bottled water or using point-of-use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of certain 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: 7/13/2005

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your tap water) or to view the source water system requirement which a water system must follow.

Our Drinking Water is Regulated

by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and they have determined that certain water quality issues exist which prevent our water from meeting all of the requirements as stated in the Federal Drinking Water Standards. Each issue is listed in this report as an violation and we are working closely with the TCEQ to achieve solutions.

Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, 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 enter the water in sources such as sewage treatment, medical, industrial, and veterinary medicine, can also enter drinking water. This process is known as source water treatment. These contaminants can include microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

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 Goal (MRDLG): the highest level of a 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 (MRDL): the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Disinfectant Treatment Technique (DTT): a required process intended to remove or mitigate a contaminant in drinking water Action Level (AL): the level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers either treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Conservation Tips

• Running the faucet while brushing your teeth or is less efficient and wastes more water.
• When washing the lawn, adjust sprinklers only to the lawn's需求, not the house, sidewalk, or driveway.
• Recycle water from fish tanks by using it to water plants. Fish emit pollution in addition to those of nitrate and phosphorus.

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