

2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

TX0450001

CITY OF COLUMBUS

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015

For more information regarding this report contact:

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

Name: Lawrence J. Ripper

Phone: 979-732-2366

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (979) 732-2366.

CITY OF COLUMBUS is Ground Water

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers

605 Spring St., Columbus, TX

Phone Number: 979-732-2366

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

Water Loss - In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2015, our system lost an estimated 120,000,000 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call 979-732-2366.

Sources of Drinking Water

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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 storm water 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, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. The City of Columbus is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

Information about Source Water Assessments

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Lawrence J. Ripper at 979-732-2366.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW>

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
2 - TAIT WELL / 703 HARBERT ST	TAIT WELL / 703 HARBERT ST	GW	<u>A</u> Gulf Coast Aquifer
2A - 1100 FRONT ST	1100 FRONT ST	GW	<u>I</u> Gulf Coast Aquifer
4 - POOL WELL / 100 LEGION ST	POOL WELL / 100 LEGION ST	GW	<u>A</u> Gulf Coast Aquifer
8 - 1100 FRONT ST	1100 FRONT ST	GW	<u>A</u> Gulf Coast Aquifer
9 - PARK ST	PARK ST	GW	<u>A</u> Gulf Coast Aquifer

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	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 goal or 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 contaminants.
MFL	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
na:	not applicable.
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppt:	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq:	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
Treatment Technique	A specific treatment method required by the EPA to control the level of contaminant in drinking water. In specific cases, where the EPA has determined it is not technically or economically feasible to establish an MCL, the EPA can instead specify a treatment technique.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2015	1	1.1-1.1	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2015	6	6.2-6.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MGL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Arsenic	2014	2.2	0 - 2.2	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
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Barium	2014	0.41	0.239 - 0.41	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
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Fluoride	2014	0.31	0.20 - 0.31	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
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Nitrate (measured as nitrogen)	2015	0.02	0 - 0.02	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
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Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MGL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Beta/photon emitters	2015	6.3	0 - 6.3	0	50	pCi/L *	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
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*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Combined Radium 226/228	2014	2.7	2.7-2.7	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	2015	9.1	3.6-9.1	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Uranium	2014	2.6	2.6-2.6	0	30	µg/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Disinfectant Residual Reporting

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2013	Chlorine	0.92	0.29	1.66	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	4		0	Y	Naturally present in the environment.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MGLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2013	1.3	1.3	0.103	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2013	0	15	1.93	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary Constituents (Not Regulated)

	Date Sampled	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Iron	1/21/14	.901	.054-.901	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.

Violations Table

Total Coliform			
Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL (TCR), MONTHLY	07/01/2015	07/31/2015	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.

During the month of July 2015, one of the monthly water samples tested positive for Coliform Bacteria. The TCEQ was immediately contacted and notifications were mailed to the utility customers. The number of monthly test samplings was increased, and there have been no more positive test results for Coliform.