



2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Consumer Confidence Report

City of Port Neches • (409) 722-4024

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

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; those 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 provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: June 17, 2010
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall, 634 Avenue C, Port Neches
Phone No: (409) 722-4024

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

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 información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (409) 722-4024 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from SURFACE water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: ATLANTIC CANAL LNVA. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. 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 (ug/L)
ppt	- parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq	- parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2007	Lead	1	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2007	Copper	0.002	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Recommended Additional Health Information for Lead

"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 Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Turbidity	0.20	100.00	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

Total Organic Carbon

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Source Water	8.15	5.20	14.80	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.

* Removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed by the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed.

Cryptosporidium Monitoring Information

"We monitored for *Cryptosporidium*, a microbial parasite that may be commonly found in surface water. *Cryptosporidium* may come from animal and human feces in the watershed. The result of our monitoring indicated that there may be *Cryptosporidium* in the raw water and/or treated finished water. Although treatment by filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, it cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. The testing methods used cannot determine if the organisms are alive and capable of causing cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection with nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps that may occur after ingestion of contaminated water."

Total Coliform: REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Fecal Coliform: REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2009	Bicarbonate	25	25	25	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2009	Chloride	27	27	27	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009	pH	7.8	7.8	7.8	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2009	Sodium	17	17	17	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009	Sulfate	13	13	13	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009	Total Alkalinity CaCO ₃	102	102	102	1000	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral as salts.
2009	Total Dissolved	83	83	83	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Nitrate	0.07	0.07	0.07	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Gross beta emitters	4.6	4.6	4.6	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Organic Contaminants TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Surface Water Monthly Operations Report (SWMOR). On the CCR report, the system must provide disinfectant tupe, minimum, maximum and average levels.

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2009	Chloramines	1.8	.08	3.4	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Total Haloacetic Acids	5.5	1	11	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2009	Total Trihalomethanes	22.7	16.3	30.9	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts

This evaluation is sampling required by EPA to determine the range of total trihalomethane and haloacetic acid in the system for future regulations. The samples are not used for compliance, and may have been collected under non-standard conditions. EPA also requires the data to be reported here.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Total Haloacetic Acids	10.8	0	63.2	NA	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2008	Total Trihalomethanes	14.7	8.8	21.4	NA	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Contaminants

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Chloroform	19	19	19	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2009	Bromodichloromethane	2	2	2	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule 2 (UCMR2)

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPS has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist PS in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. Any unregulated contaminants detected are reported in the following table. For additional information and data visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/index.html>, or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	NDMA	0.0344	0.0046	0.0592	ppb	Byproduct in chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and lastics.
2009	NPYR	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	ppb	Byproduct in chemical synthesis and manufacture of rubber, leather, and lastics.