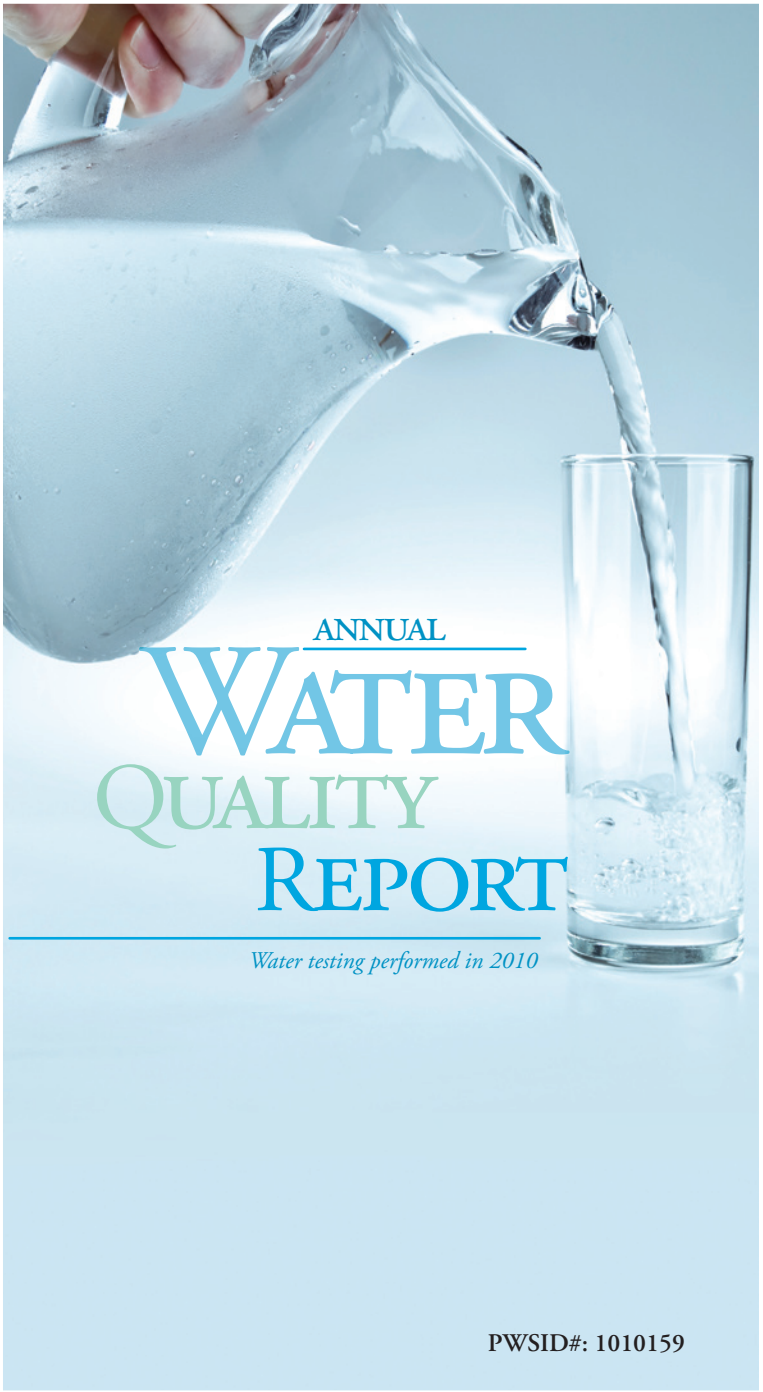

This report was prepared by:
Harris County WCID #1
125 San Jacinto
Highlands, TX 77562

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (281) 426-2115.

Quality First

Once again we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2010. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with high-quality drinking water.

PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE

www.hcwcid1.com A small convenience fee will apply.

We now accept CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS.

Request for Confidentiality: Customers may request confidentiality of their utility account upon payment of a one-time fee of $5.00. (Texas Utility Code § 182.052 and § 182.053)

For more information about this report or any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mark Taylor, General Manager, Harris County WCID #1, at (281) 426-2115.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet Tuesday following the second Monday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the Water Office, 125 San Jacinto, Highlands, Texas.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water for Harris County WCID #1 is Purchased Surface Water blended with 20% Ground Water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Our main well site is located on East Houston Street in Highlands, Texas. Purchased water comes from the Trinity River and is processed by Baytown Area Water Authority on Thompson Road. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water sources based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on the Web site for Texas Drinking Water Watch at http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

Important Health Information

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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 the taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent, according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Furthermore, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to $1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, check out their Web site at www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 WCID 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Sampling Results

During the past year we have taken water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State allows us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Monthly testing found no Total Coliform Bacteria or Fecal Coliform Bacteria.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Harris County WCID #1		Baytown Area Water Authority			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2009	3	3	0.1	NA	0.38[1]	NA[1]	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2005	2	2	0.045	0.042–0.048	0.057[2]	NA[2]	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters[3] (pCi/L)	2010	50	0	4	NA	5.6[4]	NA[4]	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2010	[4]	[4]	2.28[5]	0.5–3.5	3.25	1.58–4.00	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2005	4	4	0.65	0.6–0.7	0.75[1]	0.07–1.08[1]	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2010	60	NA	29.7	26.7–29.7	28.1	28.1–28.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2010	10	10	0.01	NA	0.15	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2009	1	1	NA	NA	0.01	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Simazine (ppb)	2009	4	4	0.07	NA	0.13[1]	NA[1]	No	Herbicide runoff
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2010	80	NA	32.3	30.2–32.3	36.4	36.4–36.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2010	TT	NA	NA	NA	4.08	3.65–5.30	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity[6] (NTU)	2010	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.22	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2010	TT=95% of samples<0.3	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2010	1.3	1.3	0.562	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2010	15	0	2.54	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	Harris County WCID #1 AMOUNT DETECTED	Harris County WCID #1 RANGE LOW-HIGH	Baytown Area Water Authority AMOUNT DETECTED	Baytown Area Water Authority RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2005	250	NA	36	27–44	42[1]	NA[1]	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2005	1.0	NA	0.006	0.004–0.0087	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2005	300	NA	58	26–90	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2005	50	NA	14.4	5.1–23.6	50[1]	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2005	6.5–8.5	NA	7.8	7.2–8.3	7.54[1]	NA[1]	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2005	250	NA	19	2–36	34[1]	NA[1]	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2005	500	NA	252	237–266	265[1]	NA[1]	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2005	5	NA	0.049	0.005–0.0974	0.131[2]	NA[2]	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES (HARRIS COUNTY WCID #1)[7]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2005	11	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2005	17	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2005	3.5	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2005	0.002	ND–0.004	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2005	65	30.4–99.4	Erosion of natural deposits

INITIAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EVALUATION RESULTS (HARRIS COUNTY WCID #1)[8]

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–IDSE Results (ppb)	2008	25.1	11.4–39.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–IDSE Results (ppb)	2008	32.3	24–40.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection

[1] Sampled in 2010.
[2] Sampled in 2008.
[3] The MCL for Beta Particles is 4 mrem/year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta Particles.
[4] Sampled in 2009.
[5] The Chloramines value of 2.28 ppm was the average level of disinfection for the year.
[6] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
[7] Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.
[8] We were required by the U.S. EPA to conduct an evaluation of our distribution system. This is known as an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) and is intended to identify locations in our distribution system that have elevated disinfection by-product concentrations. Disinfection by-products (e.g., HAAs and TTHMs) result from continuous disinfection of drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter that naturally occurs in the source water.

Definitions

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set for the control of taste and odor.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.