



2014 Annual Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014

PWS ID Number: TX2390001

Telephone: 979-337-7400

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. For more information regarding this report contact: Dane Bybee, Water Superintendent at 979-337-7434.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefona. 979-337-7506.

The source of drinking water used by the City of Brenham is Surface Water.

Information about Source Water Assessments

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) 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 source based on human activities and natural conditions. This information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. 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>.

| <u>Source Water Name</u> | <u>Type of Water</u> | <u>Report Status</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Somerville Reservoir | Surface Water | Active | Somerville/Washington County |

Public Participation Opportunities

City Council meets on the first and third Thursday of every month at 1:00 P.M. at Brenham City Hall. To learn more about future public meetings concerning your drinking water, or to request one, please call Public Utilities at 979-337-7400.

Water Loss Audit Results

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January to December 2014, our system lost an estimated 70,308,538 gallons of water. An estimated 68,661,000 gallons of water were reported as lost in 2013. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call 979-337-7400.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- 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.

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. We are 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>.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS AND IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS

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 provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions

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

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.

Avg. – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

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 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 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 contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or 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.

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 pictograms per liter (pg/L).

2014 Regulated Contaminants Detected

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. | 3 | | 0 | Y | Naturally present in the environment. |

Lead and Copper

| Substance | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90 th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|---|
| Copper | 8/15/13 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.0757 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 8/15/13 | 0 | 15 | 2.02 | 0 | ppb | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

Regulated Contaminants

| Substance | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|--------|-----------|--|
| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| Chlorite | 2014 | 1.02 | 0.00053-1.02 | 0.8 | 1 | ppm | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 2014 | 26 | 19.9-29.8 | No goal for the total | 60 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | 2014 | 43 | 33.9-54 | No goal for the total | 80 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Barium | 2014 | 0.0873 | 0.0873-0.0873 | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Cyanide | 2014 | 100 | 60-60 | 200 | 200 | ppb | N | Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories. |
| Fluoride | 2014 | 0.3 | 0.32-0.32 | 4 | 4.0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 2014 | 0.37 | 0.37-0.37 | 10 | 10 | ppm | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Combined Radium 226/228 | 3/22/11 | 1 | 1-1 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Beta/photon emitters | 3/22/11 | 5.7 | 5.7-5.7 | 0 | 50 | pCi/L* | N | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. |

* EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

| Turbidity | Limit (Treatment Technique) | Level Detected | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Highest single measurement | 1 NTU | 0.27 NTU | N | Soil runoff. |
| Lowest monthly % meeting limit | 0.3 NTU | 100% | N | Soil runoff. |

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

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 | 03/01/2014 | 03/31/2014 | Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard. |