

# 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## **Spanish (Español)**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Local Water vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

## **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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, people 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **Where does my water come from?**

Ground wells located in the Gulf Coast Aquifer.

## **Source water assessment and its availability**

Our drinking water is obtained from the Gulf Coast Aquifer, TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and the results indicate that our sources have a low susceptibility to contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact South Sabine Water at 409-579-4185.

## **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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, 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 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### How can I get involved?

Attend monthly Board Meetings that are held the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 Am at the water office.

### Results of voluntary monitoring

All results of the voluntary monitoring were within the TCEQ standards

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm)	4	4	0.733	0.6	0.89	2004	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	16	NA		2004	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	42.8	NA		2004	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0084	NA		2004	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - source water (ppm)		0.0023	0.0023(MPL)	NA		2004	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.5	NA		2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead - source water (ppm)		0.001	0.001(MPL)	0.00	0.001	2004	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.04	NA	2004	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	159	NA	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1	NA	2004	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	0.5	NA	2004	No	Discharge from petroleum factories

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0023	2004	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2004	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## Additional Contaminants

In an effort to insure the safest water possible the State has required us to monitor some contaminants not required by Federal regulations. Of those contaminants only the ones listed below were found in your

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>State MCL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Explanation and Comment</u>
Dibromochloromethane	9999 ppb	8.1 ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Arsenic	10 ppb	0.2 ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits: runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

These arsenic values are effective January 23, 2006. until then, the MCL is 0.05 mg/l and there currently is no MCLG

## Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reported Level</u>	<u>Range</u>	
		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	14.3	14.3	14.3
Chloroform (ppb)	20.4	20.4	20.4
Chloromethane (ppb)	2.9	2.9	2.9

<u>Unit Descriptions</u>	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

<u>Important Drinking Water Definitions</u>	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

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