

# 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

HARRIS COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT No. 51 - PWSID 1010238  
Phone Number 713-637-8835

## YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of  
January 1 to December 31, 2018.

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.

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 (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prescribe regulations which 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.

For more information regarding this report contact: Billy Allen at 713-637-8835.

### Source 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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.

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 (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water used by Harris County FWSD 51 are purchased surface water from the North Channel Water Authority. The North Channel Water Authority purchases treated surface water from the City of Houston utilizing water from the San Jacinto and Trinity Rivers in Harris County. FWSD 51 also uses wells that pump from the Evangeline Aquifer in Harris County.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which will 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. 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

If you would like to participate in future meeting regarding water quality, please contact Billy Allen at 713-637-8835. The Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month at noon at 367 Queenstown Rd., Houston, Texas 77015.

### *En Español*

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono 713-637-8835.

## Source Water Assessment

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 detections of the contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Billy Allen at 713-637-8835.

### Definitions

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

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**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.

**MFL:** million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

**mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**na:** not applicable.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**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.

**ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

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

## 2018 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### 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	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	06/22/2017	1.3	1.3	0.087	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	06/22/2017	0	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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)	2018	29	13.4 – 33.2	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	34	22.0 – 40.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\*The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 or TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform of 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	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	04/28/2017	0.0419	0.0419 – 0.0419	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	04/28/2017	120	120 – 120	200	200	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	04/28/2017	0.68	0.68 – 0.68	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]	2018	0.41	0.4 – 0.41	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen)	01/21/2015	.001	0 – 0.01	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	04/28/2017	5.4	5.4 – 5.4	0	4	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

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

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2018	0.18	0.18 – 0.18	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Simazine	2018	0.07	0 – 0.07	4	4	ppb	N	Herbicide runoff.

Disinfectant Residual Table – We use chloramines to disinfect our drinking water

Disinfectant	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDL Goal	Unit of measure	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines	2018	2.25	0.5 – 4.0	4	4	ppm	N	Water Additive used to control microbes.

Turbidity

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. The yearly maximum was 0.45 NTU. The yearly average was 0.15. We met the treatment technique for turbidity with 97% of monthly samples below the turbidity limit of 0.3 NTU.

Water Quantity and Accountability (gallons)

Purchased surface water	Pumped from our wells	Sold or other authorized uses	Loss	Accountability
899,965,000	34,492,000	915,470,000	18,987,000	97.97%