

# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)

Harris County WCID No. 114  
PWSID #1010317

## OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

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.

## 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.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Required language for ALL community Public water supplies:

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.

## Harris County WCID No. 114 Board of Directors Message

The Board of Directors of Harris County WCID No. 114 is pleased to give you this report about our drinking water based on 2013 test results. The District is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act to send the report each year. The content of the report is specified by the State of Texas. If you have any difficulties in reading or understanding the report, please call our operator at the number below. **The Board believes that the most important information contained in the Report is that the District's water supply was found to meet the requirements set by the State and Federal government for drinking water.**

Please call the District's operator, Eagle Water Management, Inc. at 281-374-8989 if you have any questions regarding this report.

## En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (281)374-8989- para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND WATER AND PURCHASED SURFACE WATER. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 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 these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. 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 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 the Districts operator, Eagle Water Management, Inc. at 281-374-8989.

## 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.

## Public Meetings

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 P.M. The meetings are held at, 5118 Spring Cypress Rd., Spring, Texas 77379. For additional information regarding the meeting call 281-374-8989. You may mail comments to:

Harris County WCID No. 114  
Attn: Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 11750  
Spring, Texas 77391-1750

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Arsenic*	6.6	0 – 6.6	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2011	Barium	0.285	0.0681 – 0.285	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Fluoride	0.67	0.14 – 0.67	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2013	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0.95	0 – 0.95	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Nitrite (measured as Nitrogen)	0.01	0 – 0.01	1	1	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

**Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic**

\*While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems."

**Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2013	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	16.1	10.7 – 16.1	No Goal	60	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	16.0	9.1 – 16.0	No Goal	80	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2013	Chlorine Residual, Total	2.84	1.90	4.0	4	<4	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2013	Ethylbenzene	0.9	0 – 0.9	700	700	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries.
2013	Xylenes	0.0055	0 - 0.0055	10	10	ppm	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.

**Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2013	Atrazine	0.87	0.18 – 0.87	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicides used on row crops.
2013	Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	0.61	0 – 0.61	0	6	ppb	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
2013	Pentachlorophenol	0.57	0 – 0.57	0	1	ppb	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
2013	Simazine	0.1	0 – 0.1	4	4	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicides used on row crops.

**Radioactive contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Combined Radium 226 & 228	1	1-1	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

**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.

Year	Contaminant	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Over Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2013	Lead	2.52	1	15	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper	0.119	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching from wood preservatives; erosion of natural deposits.

**Lead and Copper Rule**

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Lead Consumer Notice (LCR)	12/30/2013	2013	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.

**Required 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>

**Coliform Bacteria**

Year/Month	Total Coliform (MCLG)	Total Coliform (MCL)	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli (MCL)	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2013 (November)	0	1 positive Monthly Sample	1	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

**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.

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

**ABBREVIATIONS**

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)  
Avg - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples