

# 2013 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

HARRIS COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 61

13205 Cypress-N. Houston Rd., Cypress, Texas 77429

Telephone (281) 469-9405

June 1, 2014

## Your Drinking Water Is Safe

It is the highest priority of your water district to provide you and your family with a dependable supply of safe clean drinking water. The district has never violated any water quality standard and has been rated Superior Public Water System. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed the District's system and determined that the water is safe to drink. 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 is in your drinking water. This report is sent to you pursuant to EPA regulations and the Safe Drinking Water Act and will be sent to you each year.

## Where Do We Get Your Drinking Water?

Your drinking water is obtained from ground water sources (The Gulf Coast Aquifer, Chicot & Evangeline). The quality of the water from District wells is high. District personnel monitor it on a regular basis. It is tested for contaminants as required by law. In addition, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s). This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in this assessment will allow us to focus on our source water protection activities.

## En Espanol:

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (281) 469-9405 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

## Public Participation Opportunities Board of Directors Meet:

**Second, Third, & Fourth Wednesday of each month.**

**Time:** 7:30 P.M.

**Location:** 13205 Cypress N. Houston Rd.

**Telephone:** 281-469-9405 (24 hour emergency number)

If you have specific questions about the information in this report, call Harris Co. FWSD No. 61 at (281) 469-9405 and ask for: Jerry Homan, General Manager, or Brian Breeding, Operations Manager.

**Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:**

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immuno - compromised 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 (800-426-4791)**.

**ALL Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants**

Since your 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 Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

**About The Following Pages**

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents which have been found in your drinking water. U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents.

**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 concerns. Therefore, secondary's are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

**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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Treatment Technique (TT)**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL)**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter

**ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter

**ppt** - Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

**ppq** - Parts per quadrillion-picograms per liter

**UG/L** - Micrograms per liter

**PCI/L** - Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**MFL** - Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

<b>Inorganics</b>								
<b>Year (Range)</b>	<b>Constituent</b>	<b>Average Level</b>	<b>Minimum Level</b>	<b>Maximum Level</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Source Of Constituent</b>
2013	Arsenic	0.0057	0.0057	0.0057	0.01	0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2013	Barium	0.213	0.213	0.213	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Fluoride*	0.49	0.20	0.76	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2013	Nitrate	0.065	0.01	0.17	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Selenium	<0.003	<0.003	<0.003	0.05	0.05	ppm	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2013	Gross alpha	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0	PCI/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Radium 228	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	5.0	0	PCI/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Gross Beta Emitters	<4.0	<4.0	<4.0	50	0	PCI/L	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.

**\* Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 61 does not add fluoride to your water.**

**Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic**

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic was decreased from 0.05 mg/L (50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/L (10ppb) effective January 23, 2006. TCEQ is providing the following health effects language according to new Customer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting requirements for arsenic.

Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is between 5 ppb and 10 ppb, this information is required by EPA:

*“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 cost 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.”*

### Organics Contaminants

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source Of Constituent
2013	Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	0.0	0.0	0.0	6	0	UG/L	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source Of Constituent
2013	Chlorine	1.6	1.4	1.8	4.0	4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source Of Constituent
2013	Total Trihalomethanes	1.1	0	2.9	80	No goal	UG/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
2013	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	60	No goal	UG/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source Of Contaminant
2013	Bromoform	0.4	<1.0	1.3	100	UG/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Bromodichloromethane	<0.5	<0.5	0.5	100	UG/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Dibromochloromethane	0.3	<1.0	0.8	100	UG/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Chloroform	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	100	UG/L	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
Year (Range)	Constituent	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2013	Lead	.00171	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper	.214	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

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>.

**Turbidity** Not Required

**Total Coliform** Not Detected

**Fecal Coliform** Not Detected

<b>Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents (No associated adverse health effects)</b>							
Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source Of Contaminant
2011	Bicarbonate	286	190	360	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2013	Calcium	23.6	23.6	23.6	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Chloride	51	45	57	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2013	Iron	0.342	0.342	0.342	.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2013	Magnesium	6.9	6.9	6.9	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2013	Manganese	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	pH	7.85	7.7	8.0	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosiveness of water.

**Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents (No associated adverse health effects)  
Continued**

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source Of Contaminant
2013	Sodium	93.4	93.4	93.4	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproducts of oil field activity.
2011	Sulfate	7	4	11	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Total Alkalinity As CaCO <sub>3</sub>	234	156	295	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2011	Total Dissolved Solids	365	278	440	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2013	Total Hardness As CaCO <sub>3</sub>	87.3	87.3	87.3	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2013	Zinc	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	NA	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.

Thank you for your interest in your drinking water. If you have any questions or comments, please call our office (281) 469-9405.

The Board of Directors and Staff

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 61