Contaminants May Be In All Drinking Water

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 our office. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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 include:

- Microbial contaminants (viruses, bacteria) – may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife
- Inorganic contaminants (salts, metals) – can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial/domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming
- Pesticides and herbicides – may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses
- Organic chemical contaminants (synthetic & volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes) – can come from gas stations, storm runoff, septic systems
- Radioactive contaminants – 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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Este informe incluye información importante sobre su agua potable. Para asistencia, por favor llame al (979) 245-3222.
The City of Bay City is pleased to present its 2017 Annual Water Quality Report. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by our water system to provide safe drinking water. It is in accordance with the United States Protection Agency (EPA) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart 0 that requires all drinking water suppliers to provide the public with an annual statement describing the water supply and the quality of its water.

**The Source of Your Drinking Water**

The City’s water is supplied by water wells located throughout the City. It is drawn from the Chicot Aquifer located within the major Gulf Coast Aquifer which parallels the coastline from Louisiana to Mexico. When we turn on our faucet it is easy to see what we pay for – water. What is not so simple to see is what it takes for the water to get to our faucets. Below ground, we have over 113 miles of water pipes, 8,000 water meters, 400 fire hydrants and 400 isolation valves in our distribution system. Licensed Operators, Customer Service Technicians and Maintenance Crews work around the clock to ensure high quality water is delivered to your faucet. In 2017, Bay City Water Plants produced over 806 million gallons of water!

**Residential Plumbing Pipes and Lead Exposure**

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. The City of Bay City 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Important Health Information**

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.

**Water Loss**

Data from water production meters as well as consumption and water loss reports compiled throughout the year are analyzed to identify areas of water loss. Minimizing water loss throughout the water system increases efficiency, reduces costs and leads to sustainability of our source water. In 2017, our system lost 180,688,932 gallons of water or roughly 23.05% of the water produced.

**Source Water Assessment Protection**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of our 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. For more information on source water assessments and the protection efforts of our system, contact Krystal Mason, Water/Wastewater Quality Coordinator at (979) 323-1692.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Did our Public Water System (PWS) have any violations in 2017?
No. The City of Bay City PWS had two reporting violations last year. Details can be found in the attached “2017 Drinking Water Quality Report.”

Is our water tested?
Yes. Each day Water Operators test the level of chlorine not only at our water wells but also at various sites around the City. In addition, throughout each month, we collect water samples from homes all over the City for bacteriological testing. Also, the State of Texas collects water samples quarterly and annually to test for regulated contaminants such as arsenic and fluoride as well as unregulated contaminants such as calcium, aluminum and sodium.

Who can I contact after hours if I have a City-related water or sewer problem?
After 5:00 PM and on weekends, our phones are monitored by an answering service. Call 979-245-7146. Give the Operator your address, name, phone number and nature of your problem. An after-hours crew will evaluate the situation and make any necessary repairs to ensure your service is restored.

My water looks, smells and tastes funny. Is it safe to drink?
Yes, it is. Our disinfectant levels are tested daily to ensure we have met the minimum chlorine level of .2 mg/L. However, from time to time following water line repairs debris (such as rust deposits) in the lines can be stirred causing the water to take on a reddish-brown or yellow appearance. Although it looks unappealing, it is safe to drink. To help clear the water, you can open a large faucet (such as a bathtub) and allow the water to run for 10-15 minutes. If the water has not cleared after that, please call Public Works at 979-323-1659 and we will have an Operator look into the problem.

Do we have hard water?
Yes. Based on U.S. Department of Interior definitions our water is considered “hard.” Testing conducted in March 2017, indicated our water hardness is 127 mg/L.

Why do I have low water pressure just at one sink?
The aerator attached to your faucet can trap debris. Clearing the aerator should restore your water pressure. If you experience low pressure throughout your home, please report it to Public Works.

How could I have used that much water?
Check your toilet flapper valve! Stop by the Utility Billing office and we will provide you with toilet tabs to help you detect a leaking flapper valve. Leaky flapper valves are difficult to detect and can unknowingly leak up to 200 gallons of water per day! You can also ask Utility Billing to check your meter to see if it indicates a leak. Fixing leaky pipes and faucets will save you money and help us conserve water for future generations!!

Where can I find more information on our water system?
Visit the Texas Drinking Water Watch website - http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/. This website contains all the current and past information about our water system.
## 2017 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Constituent (unit of measure)</th>
<th>Highest Level Detected</th>
<th>Range of Levels Detected</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Arsenic (ppb)</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>3.7 - 11.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Barium (ppm)</td>
<td>.277</td>
<td>21.1 - 277</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge of drilling waste or metal refiners; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Fluoride (ppm)</td>
<td>.63</td>
<td>4.6 - 63</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Nitrate (ppm) (\text{measured as Nitrogen})</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>0.0 - 0.02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Selenium (ppb)</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>0.0 - 5.1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. 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 BY-PRODUCTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Constituent (unit of measure)</th>
<th>Highest Level Detected</th>
<th>Range of Levels Detected</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Haloacetic Acids (ppb)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0 - 4.5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0 - 18.8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By-product of drinking water disinfection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Constituent (unit of measure)</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>Highest No. of Positive</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Likely Source of Contamination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria</td>
<td>Presence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Positive Monthly Sample</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>E.coli</td>
<td>Presence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VIOLATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Violation Type</th>
<th>Violation Begin</th>
<th>Violation End</th>
<th>Violation Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Disinfectant Quarterly Operating Report (DLQOR)</td>
<td>07/01/2017</td>
<td>09/30/2017</td>
<td>We failed to submit the required Disinfectant Quarterly Operating Report by the date required for the period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)</td>
<td>07/01/2017</td>
<td>01/30/2018</td>
<td>We failed to provide our annual CCR by the required date. The report informs our customers about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chlorine: Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.*

*Consumer Confidence Rule: The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.*