

# Consumer Confidence Report

## Information Specific to Your Community Public Water System 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report City of West Columbia (979) 345-3123

### Source(s) of Water:

Type(s) of water: Groundwater  
Body(ies) of water: Brazos & Colorado River Basins  
Location of body(ies) of water: Brazoria County

### Public Participation Opportunities:

Date: Monday, August 12, 2019  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: W.C. Council Chambers @ 512 E. Brazos

### Source Water Assessment Protection:

The TCEQ 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 protection efforts at our system, contact Matthew Fisher, Water Department Supervisor at (979) 345-3123. *Para más información sobre gravámenes del agua de la fuente y esfuerzos de la protección en nuestro sistema, pescador de Matthew Fisher el contacto, supervisor del departamento del agua en (979) 345-3123.*

### Sources 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. 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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, color, or odor of drinking water, please contact the systems business office.

### Definitions and Terms:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation. *Action level (AL):* The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. *Maximum contaminant level goal (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 Contaminant Level (MCL):* The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to maximum contaminant level goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology. *Parts per million (ppm),* or milligrams per liter. *Parts per billion (ppb),* or micrograms per liter. *Picocuries per liter (pCi/L),* or radioactivity per liter. *Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL),* or 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. *Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG),* or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

### Information on Detected Contaminants:

The data presented in the report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations.

### Regulated Contaminants:

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Name of 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	4	3.6 – 3.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	26	25.8 – 25.08	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

### Inorganic Contaminants:

Name of Inorganic Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	03/30/2017	3.4	3.4 – 3.4	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	03/30/2017	0.245	0.245 - 0.245	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	03/30/2017	0.67	0.67 – 0.67	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	0.02	0.02 – 0.02	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	03/30/2017	7.2	7.2 – 7.2	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

**Coliform Bacteria:**

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or 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.	1		0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

**Disinfectant Residual:**

Name of Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Units of Measure	Violation	Source in Drinking Water
Chlorine (Free)	2018	1.1	.21 – 3.9	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

**Radioactive Contaminants:**

Name of Radioactive Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	07/072016	1.5	1.5-1.5	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Lead and Copper:**

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 West Columbia 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over Action Level (AL)	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Lead	09/22/2016	0	15	4.6	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	09/22/2016	1.3	1.3	0.48	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

**VIOLATIONS:****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	04/12/2018	Failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. Results were to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.

**Public Notification Rule:**

The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	10/13/2016	04/18/2018	Failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations

**Additional 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.