

# Consumer Confidence Report

## Information Specific to Your Community Public Water System 2021 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 8, 2021  
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.*

### **Definitions and Abbreviations:**

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. *Parts per quadrillion (ppq)*, or picograms per liter (pg/L). *Parts per trillion (ppt)* or parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L). *Treatment Technique or TT*: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. *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. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. *MFL*, or million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos). *Mrem*: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body). *Na*: not applicable, and *NTU*: nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity). *Avg*: regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples. 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. 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.

### **Information about your 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, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the systems 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 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.

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>.

### **Information about Source Water:**

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 is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will 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.

| 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 | Source of Contaminant                 |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 0                              | 1 positive monthly sample.               | 1                       |   | 0   | N         | Naturally present in the environment. |

**Lead and Copper:**

| 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            | 10/19/2020   | 0    | 15                | 1.3                         | 1                              | ppb   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| Copper          | 10/19/2020   | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.234                       | 0                              | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |

**2021 Water Quality Test Results**

**Disinfectant Contaminants:**

| Name of Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)          | 2021            | 4                      | 4.4-4.4                  | No goal for the total | 60  | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)     | 2021            | 29                     | 28.9-28.9                | 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 sample results collected at a location over a year.

**Inorganic Contaminants:**

| Name of Inorganic Contaminant | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Arsenic                       | 4/13/2020       | 2.4                    | 2.4 – 2.4                | 0    | 10  | ppb   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                    |
| Barium                        | 4/13/2020       | 0.357                  | 0.357 - 0.357            | 2    | 2   | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Fluoride                      | 4/13/2020       | .74                    | 0.74 – 0.74              | 4    | 4.0 | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Selenium                      | 4/13/2020       | 8.1                    | 8.1 – 8.1                | 50   | 50  | ppb   | N         | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.                          |

**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.   |

**Disinfectant Residual:**

| Name of Disinfectant Residual | Year | Average Level | Range of Levels Detected | MRDL | MRDLG | Units of Measure | Violation | Source in Drinking Water                 |
|-------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine                      | 2021 | 2.785         | .45-4.00                 | 4    | 4     | ppm              | N         | Water additive used to control microbes. |