



# Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 153

## 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

281-367-5511

### Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

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 on the back of this form. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

**WATER SOURCES:** 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: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

#### **Where do we get our drinking water?**

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water sources. It comes from the Evangeline Aquifer. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe 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 the assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

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

#### **Public Input Opportunity**

Your water board meets at 11:30 A.M. on the third Wednesday of each month at  
The offices of Fulbright & Jaworski  
1301 Mc Kinney 47th floor Houston, TX 77010

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one please call us.  
281-367-5511

*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. 281-367-5511 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.*

#### **Special Notice for the Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or Other Immune Problems:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

The other side of this page lists 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.

## Important Drinking Water Definitions & Abbreviations

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for margin of safety.  
**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest permissible level of contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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

**Variances and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet a MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfection Level):** 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.

**NTU—Nephelometric Turbidity Units** **MFL—million fibers per liter** (a measure of asbestos) **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)** **ppt** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter **pptq—parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter**

### Inorganic Contaminants

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Average Level</u>	<u>Minimum Level</u>	<u>Maximum Level</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Source of Contaminant</u>
2008	Fluoride	0.12	0.12	0.12	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2008	Gross alpha	2.3	2.3	2.3	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Average Level</u>	<u>Minimum Level</u>	<u>Maximum Level</u>	<u>MRDL</u>	<u>MRDLG</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Source of Contaminant</u>
2008	Chlorine Residual Free	1.47	0.55	2.5	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Lead & Copper

<u>Average Year</u>	<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>The 90th Percentile</u>	<u>Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level</u>	<u>Action Level</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Source of Contaminant</u>
2006	Lead	15.3	1	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2006	Copper	0.527	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

### Recommended Additional Health Information for Lead

All water systems are required by EPA to report the language below starting with the 2009 CCR to be delivered to you by July of 2010. We are providing this information now as a courtesy.

*"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 you 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>."*

<b>Public Water System ID#:</b> 1012133
<b>Fecal Coliform:</b> Not Detected; reported monthly
<b>Total Coliform:</b> Not Detected; reported monthly
<b>Organic Contaminants:</b> Testing Waived, not reported, or none detected.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b> Not reported, none detected
<b>Unregulated IDSE for Disinfection Byproducts:</b> Waived or not sampled
<b>Unregulated Contaminants:</b> Not reported, none detected
<b>Turbidity:</b> Not Required