

2010 Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Harris County WCID No. 50

281-326-5573

Harris County WCID No. 50 drinking water is monitored and tested in accordance with State and Federal regulations, and meets or exceeds all Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

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:

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.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water used by HARRIS COUNTY WCID 50 EL LAGO is Purchased Surface. A Source Water susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information 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 the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww/tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

If you have difficulty understanding this report and would like assistance to translate into Spanish, please call (281) 326-5573.

Public Participation

Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 50 continues to meet or exceed established water-quality standards and we encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular District meetings occur on the second Wednesday of every month at 1122 Cedar Lane in El Lago, starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is always welcome. For information or help, please call David Baker at (281) 326-5573 or FAX (281) 326-7005.

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 of 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 at (800-426-4791).

About The Following

The following lists all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents that have been found in your drinking water. U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 contaminants.

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 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.

ABBREVIATIONS:

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

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The level of 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 Goal (MCLG) – The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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 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 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.

Total Coliform	Reported Monthly, Tests Found No Coliform Bacteria
Fecal Coliform	Reported Monthly Tests Found No Fecal Coliform Bacteria
Turbidity	Not Required

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to microbial contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, person 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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CEDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-9791).

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Year	Contaminant	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Sites Over (AL)	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
2010	Lead	0	15	1.65	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Copper	1.3	1.3	0.408	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

“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>.”

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
2010	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	17.4	17.4 - 17.4	No goal for total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
2010	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)*	16.5	16.5 - 16.5	No goal for total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2010	Barium	0.0521	0.0521 – 0.0521	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Fluoride	0.9	0.9 – 0.9	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2010	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0.63	0.63 – 0.63	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
2005	Beta/photon emitters	5.1	5.1 – 5.1	0	4	mrem /yr	N	Decay of mature; and man made deposits.

**Synthetic Organic Contaminants including
Pesticides and Herbicides**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely Source of Contaminant
2010	Simazine	0.16	0.08 – 0.16	4	4	ppb	Herbicide runoff
2010	Atrazine	0.31	0.2 – 0.31	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

**HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. NO. 50
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