

# 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF WESLACO

PWS ID # 1080011

Phone # 956-968-2833

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Public Participation Opportunities

**Phone Number:** (956) 968-3008

For any questions regarding your drinking water or any of the information provided in the following pages please call the Weslaco Water Treatment Plant at (956) 968 - 3008. To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us at the phone number listed above.

**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 in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

## INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF 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.

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

*En Español* Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (956) 968-3008 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from SURFACE water sources. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(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 our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year 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.

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

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list 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.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

#### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

#### MPL – State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

#### 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.

### ABRREVIATIONS

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units 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 (µg/L)

NA – not applicable

ND – Not detected

### Inorganic Contaminants

Sample Date	Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Unit of Measure	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
					Low	High			
2/24/2011	Antimony	6	6	0.497	NA	NA	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
2/24/2011	Arsenic	0	10	0.963	NA	NA	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
2/24/2011	Barium	2	2	0.11	NA	NA	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
2/24/2011	Chromium	100	100	1.87	NA	NA	ppb	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
2/24/2011	Fluoride	4	4	0.40	NA	NA	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2/24/2011	Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	10	10	0.17	NA	NA	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
2/24/2011	Selenium	50	50	0.989	NA	NA	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2/24/2011	Thallium	0.5	2	0.082	NA	NA	ppb	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories

**Nitrate Advisory** - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	MRDL MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Unit of Measure	Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High			
2011	Chloramines	4	4	2.84	1.3	4.1	ppm	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	MRDL MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Unit of Measure	Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High			
2011	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	NA	60	15	5	18.5	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	NA	80	43	37.7	44.1	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

### Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# Samples Exceeding AL	Unit of Measure	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
2010	Lead - action level at consumer taps	0	15	1.29	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Copper - action level at consumer taps	1.3	1.3	0.106	0	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

**Additional Health Information for Lead** *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>.*

### Turbidity

Year	Contaminant	Limit (Treatment Technique )	Level detected	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Highest single measurement (NTU)	1	0.52	No	Soil runoff
2011	Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3	99.47 %*	No	Soil runoff

\* 95% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.48. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

### Radioactive Contaminants

Year	Contaminant	MRDL MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Unit of Measure	Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High			
2011	Beta/photon emitters	0	50	5.8	NA	NA	pCi/L	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
2011	Combined Radium 226 / 228	0	5	1	NA	NA	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Total Organic Carbon (TOC)

Year	Contaminant	Lowest TOC removal ratio percentage	Average TOC removal ratio percentage	Highest TOC removal ratio percentage	Treatment Technique TT	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	TOC Removal	0.56	1.12	1.81	TT -System provides the alternative compliance criteria removal ratio required	NA	%	Naturally present in the environment.

\*Removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed by the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed.

Total organic carbon (TOC) no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

## Total Coliform

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Coliform Bacteria	0	*	Presence	No	Naturally present in the environment.

\*Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption