

# 2014 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 éste 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.

### **ABREVIATIONS**

**NTU** - Nephelometric Turbidity Units million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

**pCi/L** - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**mrem/yr** – millirems per year (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**

2014	Arsenic	2	2.1	2.1	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
2014	Barium	0.108	0.108	0.108	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
2014	Fluoride	0.3	0.29	0.29	4	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2014	Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	0.07	0.06	0.07	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
2014	Selenium	3.3	3.3	3.3	50	50	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
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 baby blue 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			
2014	Chloramines	4	4	2.7	2.5	3.3	ppm	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Sample Date	Contaminants	Highest Level Detected	Range		MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
			Low	High					
2014	Chlorite	0.835	0	0.835	0.8	1	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2014	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	19	11.3	34.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2014	Total Trihalomethanes	36	21.2	50.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

### Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over All	Units	Violation	Typical Source
2013	Lead	0	15	3.91	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper	1.3	1.3	.345	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

	Limit (Treatment Technique )	Level detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.45 NTU	No	Soil runoff
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	98.81%	No	Soil runoff

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

### Radioactive Contaminants

2/24/2011	Beta/Photon emitters	5.8	5.8	5.8	0	50	pCi/L	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2/24/2011	Combined Radium 226/228	1	1	1	0	5	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
2014	TOC Removal	8.3	25.7	45.5	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.

\*The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
0	1 positive monthly sample	1		0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

Violations Table

Chlorite			
Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chlorite in excess of the MCL. Some people may experience anemia.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	09/01/2014	09/30/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*			
Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.
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	2014	We failed to provide the results of lead tap water monitoring to the consumers at the location water was tested. These were supposed to be provided no later than 30 days after learning the results.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)			
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.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE (DBP), MAJOR	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

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