

2018 Consumer Confidence Report for Public Water System CITY OF MASON

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2018

CITY OF MASON provides ground water from the Hickory Aquifer located in Mason County.

For more information regarding this report contact:

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Phone 325-347-6449

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono 325-347-6449

For additional information on current plans to address all radionuclide violations, please see notice at the end of this CCR, on page 6.

Definitions and Abbreviations

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The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Action Level:

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

Action Level Goal (ALG):

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

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment:

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.

Level 2 Assessment:

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 residual disinfectant level or MRDL:

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 or 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 contaminants.

MFL

million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

mrem:

millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

na:

not applicable.

NTU

nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)

pCi/L

picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Definitions and Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ppb: | micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. |
| ppm: | milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water. |
| ppq | parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L) |
| ppt | 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. |

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 EPAs 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 system's 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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

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 **[insert water system contact][insert phone number]**'

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--|
| Copper | 09/06/2017 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.1651 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Lead | 09/06/2017 | 0 | 15 | 1.1 | 0 | ppb | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

2018 Water Quality Test Results

| Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 2018 | 1 | 1.2 - 1.2 | No goal for the total | 60 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year'

| Inorganic Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Barium | 2018 | 0.174 | 0.174 - 0.174 | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride | 01/31/2017 | 0.5 | 0.5 - 0.5 | 4 | 4.0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] | 2018 | 2 | 0.08 - 1.77 | 10 | 10 | ppm | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |

| Radioactive Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-----------|---|
| Beta/photon emitters | 2018 | 12.8 | 0 - 12.8 | 0 | 50 | pCi/L* | N | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. |

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----|-------------|---|----|-------|---|------------------------------|
| Combined Radium 226/228 | 2018 | 6 | 5.51 - 6.67 | 0 | 5 | pCi/L | Y | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium | 2018 | 23 | 0 - 23 | 0 | 15 | pCi/L | Y | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Uranium | 2018 | 1 | 0 - 1.2 | 0 | 30 | ug/l | N | Erosion of natural deposits. |

Disinfectant Residual

' A blank disinfectant residual table has been added to the CCR template, you will need to add data to the fields. Your data can be taken off the Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Reports (DLQOR).'

| Disinfectant Residual | Year | Average Level | Range of Levels Detected | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Violation (Y/N) | Source in Drinking Water |
|-----------------------|------|---------------|--------------------------|------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Chlorine | 2018 | 1.13 | .33 – 1.97 | 4 | 4 | | ppm | Water additive used to control microbes. |

Violations

| Combined Radium 226/228 | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| MCL, AVERAGE | 01/01/2018 | 03/31/2018 | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |
| MCL, AVERAGE | 04/01/2018 | 06/30/2018 | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |
| MCL, AVERAGE | 07/01/2018 | 09/30/2018 | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |
| MCL, AVERAGE | 10/01/2018 | 12/31/2018 | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |

| Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| MCL, AVERAGE | 01/01/2018 | 03/31/2018 | Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated. |
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| 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) | 12/30/2017 | 03/14/2018 | 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. |

Violations

| Public Notification Rule | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency). | | | |
| Violation Type | Violation Begin | Violation End | Violation Explanation |
| PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION | 01/25/2018 | 02/13/2018 | We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations. |

The City of Mason is currently working on a Water Treatment facility funded by the Texas Water Development Board and regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This system, which should begin construction in the Fall of 2019, will provide treatment and removal of radionuclides from a majority of the water sources that supply the City. When mixed with the water from other sources, the level of radionuclides, which are the only contaminants identified in City water, will be reduced to a level well below the maximum contamination level. The treatment system should be completed and producing acceptable water quality by Spring of 2020, if all approvals from regulatory agencies are received in a timely manner. This HMO Treatment and monitoring of the water system should provide a significant and sufficient reduction in the levels of radium 226 & 228 and all gross alpha contamination and bring the City of Mason drinking water into full compliance with all TCEQ and EPA regulations within the next twelve months. If additional information is needed concerning the designed treatment system and the expected time frame for meeting all water quality regulations, please feel free to contact City Administrator, John Palacio at 325-347-6449.