

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name: Mr. John Palacio, City Administrator

Phone: (325)347-6449

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en sepanol, favor de llamar al telefono (325) 347-6449 TX 160001

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of  
January 1 to December 31, 2014

City of Mason is Ground Water

## Sources of 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (a) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (d) 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.

(e) 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, color, or odor 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; person 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. 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 two 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 Assessments**

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.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL:

<http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW>

Source Water Name		Type of Water	Report Status	
1 - END OF EL PASO ST	END OF EL PASO ST	GW	Y	
4 - MILL CREEK RD	MILL CREEK RD	GW	-----	
5 - W OF TOWN	W OF TOWN	GW	Y	
7 - S OF TOWN	S OF TOWN	GW		Y
8 - MILL CREEK RD	MILL CREEK RD		GW	Y

**NOTICE OF DRINKING WATER VIOLATIONS FOR BOTH RADIUM 226 & 228 AND GROSS ALPHA PARTICLES**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF MASON water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers has exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for gross alpha excluding radon and uranium. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established the MCL for gross alpha excluding radon and uranium at 15 pico curies per liter (pCi/L) based on running annual average (RAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for gross alpha excluding radon and uranium indicates a compliance value in quarter one 2014 of 18 pCi/L for EPI.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF MASON water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for combined radium (-226 & -228). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for combined radium (-226 & -228) at 5 pico curies per liter (pCi/L) based on running annual average (RAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for combined radium (-226 & -228) indicates a compliance value in quarter one 2015 of 7 pCi/L for EP1.

This is not an emergency. Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Come people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting. cancer. You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. The City is working to correct the problem through active management and monitoring of the centrally located reverse osmosis dispensing station has been provided at 1024 McKinley Ave to provide treated clean water at no cost to the residents of Mason. Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses).

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact John Palacio, City Administrator at 325-347-6449

### Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)*	2014	3	2.5-2.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	3	2.5-2.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination.
Arsenic	03/04/2009	2.6	0-2.6	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	03/04/2009	0.181	0.0333-0.181	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of

								natural deposits.
Fluoride	2014	.51	0.51-0.51	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measures as Nitrogen]	2014	2	1.78-1.78	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 Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2014	11.6	9.4-11.6	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Combined Radium 226/228	2014	7	6.7-6.9	0	5	pCi/L	Y	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2014	18	9.6-20.3	0	15	pCi/L	Y	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	2014	1	0-1.3	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

These tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation:

- pCi/L: picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity)
- ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Maximum Contaminants Level or MCL: Highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment technology.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING CITY OF MASON PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Recent reports indicate that residents continue to actively practice good water conservation, but we continue to encourage everyone to not waste our water resources and help protect the water supplies that we do have for the future residents of our hometown. The City monitors water levels and water quality regularly, but the radionuclide contamination in our water supply is a problem that is naturally occurring result of the geography and landscape we live in. One additional service we provide for our residents to get absolutely “clean” water is the Reverse Osmosis station that the City operates and maintains next to the Eckert Civic Center at 1024 McKinley Avenue. The treated water is free if you will just bring your own container. The City is also working on a new Feasibility Study and Work Plan to identify new treatment options and possibilities to treat our water supply for removal of radionuclide contamination. The City is also committed to additional management and monitoring of our water supply and investigating possible new sources of clean water.