

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF MASON

Phone Number: 325-347-6449

SPECIAL NOTICE

Required language for ALL community public water supplies:

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; those 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 provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: July 12, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 102^{1/2} McKinley Ave
 Richard P. Becker Civic Center
Phone Number: 325-347-6449
 To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.
 Or contact Joe Martinez 325-347-

OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and they have determined that certain water quality issues exist which prevent our water from meeting all of the requirements as stated in the Federal Drinking Water Standards. Each issue is listed in this report as a violation and we are working closely with the TCEQ to achieve solutions.

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: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

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. (325) 347-6449 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: HICKORY. 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 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, secondaries 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.

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.

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 (µg/L)
ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Arsenic	3	3	3	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
* The arsenic value was effective January 23, 2006. In the event of a violation, you will be notified.								
2009	Barium	0.181	0.181	0.181	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2008	Fluoride	0.52	0.52	0.52	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2009	Nitrate	1.32	1.32	1.32	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; seepage; erosion of natural deposits.
2009	Combined Radium 226 & 228	5.6	5.15	5.94	5	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2009	Gross beta emitters	9.7	9.5	9.9	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2009	Gross alpha	7.17	3.52	11.6	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

Organic Contaminants TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2009	Chlorine Residual, Free	1.64	0.61	2.59	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	3.1	2.6	3.5	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts WAIVED OR NOT YET SAMPLED
 Unregulated Contaminants NOT REPORTED OR NONE DETECTED

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile Exceeding Action Level	Number of Sites	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Lead	2.4	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2008	Copper	0.098	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Required 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

NOT REQUIRED

Total Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA
 Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

VIOLATIONS

Violation Type	Health Effects	Duration	Explanation	Steps to Correct
ENTRY POINT 001: MCL VIOLATION - 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.	4/1/2009 to 6/30/2009	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set the MCL for COMBINED RADIUM 226& 228 at 5 pico curies per liter (pCi/L), and has determined a health concern exists at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in our community for Combined Radium 226 & 228 indicates a level of 5.6 pCi/L. This is not an emergency but, some people who drink water containing Radium 226 & 228 in excess of the MCL over many years have an increased risk of cancer. You do not need to use an alternative water supply. If you have health concerns you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.	
ENTRY POINT 001: MCL VIOLATION - 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.	10/1/2009 to 12/31/2009		
ENTRY POINT 002: MCL VIOLATION - 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.	1/1/2009 to 3/31/2009		
ENTRY POINT 002: MCL VIOLATION - 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.	4/1/2009 to 6/30/2009	The City of Mason is working to correct the problem by placing a centrally located Osmosis dispenser that may satisfy the city's obligation. In addition, the city is working to correct the problem by studying the feasibility of limiting the use of certain wells to lower combined radium contamination and by considering the purchasing of additional drinking water well which may reduce combined radium contamination.	
ENTRY POINT 002: MCL VIOLATION - 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.	10/1/2009 to 12/31/2009		

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated
(No associated adverse health effects)

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2008	Bicarbonate	221	221	221	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2009	Calcium	65.3	65.3	65.3	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2008	Chloride	19	19	19	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2009	Copper	0.007	0.007	0.007	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2008	Hardness as Ca/Mg	250	250	250	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2009	Iron	0.02	0.02	0.02	3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2009	Lead	0.001	0.001	0.001	NA	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2009	Magnesium	21.5	21.5	21.5	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009	Manganese	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009	Nickel	0.002	0.002	0.002	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2008	pH	7.6	7.6	7.6	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2009	Sodium	11	11	11	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008	Sulfate	16	16	16	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	221	221	221	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2008	Total Dissolved Solids	310	310	310	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2009	Total Hardness as CaCO3	252	252	252	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2009	Zinc	0.016	0.016	0.016	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.