

Annual
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Reporting Year 2013



Presented By
City of Mission

PWS ID#: TX1080008

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) 580-8780 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

There When You Need Us

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2013. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the TCEQ has a Web site (www.tceq.com) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Texas, including valuable information about our watershed.

Important Health Information

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.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We will meet Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building located at 2801 North Holland.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife; **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to the reservoir where copper sulfate (algae control) is added. Gravity then causes the raw water to flow to the raw water pump intake where we add powdered activated carbon (taste and odor control). Then the water is pumped to the water treatment plant. The water then goes to a rapid mixer where aluminum sulfate and polymer are added. Chlorine dioxide is added for disinfection. The addition of these substances causes small particles to adhere to one another (called floc), making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of anthracite coal and sand. As smaller, suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears, and clear water emerges. Chlorine and ammonium sulfate are added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine added, adding the smallest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising aesthetics). Finally, polyphosphate, a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) is added before the water is pumped to sanitized, underground reservoirs, water towers, and into your home or business.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Mission, Water Systems, consists of two water treatment plants: the South Water Treatment Plant (8.0 mgd) and the North Water Treatment Plant (17.5 mgd). Our raw water source is the Rio Grande River. The raw water is delivered from the river to the reservoirs via irrigation canals. Combined, our water treatment facilities can treat and purify 25.5 million gallons per day of clean drinking water.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Miguel (Mike) Garcia, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, at (956) 580-8780.

Tips to Prevent Storm Water Pollution

1. Remember to turn off your sprinklers when it rains to avoid water runoff; during winter, runoff can freeze, causing slippery conditions.
2. Bag your pets' waste, Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drains and eventually into local water bodies.
3. Don't apply pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides before it rains. Contrary to popular belief, the rain won't help to soak these chemicals into the ground; it will only help create polluted runoff into our local creeks.
4. Select native and adapted plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Learn more about native and adapted plants at www.txsmartscape.com.
5. Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.
6. If you change your car's oil, don't dump it on the ground or in the storm drain. Dispose of it properly at an oil recycling center.
7. Check your car, boat, or motorcycle for leaks. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material; don't rinse the spills into the storm drains.
8. Don't get rid of grass clippings and other yard waste by dumping it or sweeping it into the storm drain; this will deplete the oxygen for aquatic life. Instead, compost your yard waste.
9. When washing your car at home, wash with only water or use biodegradable soap and wash it on a lawn or other unpaved surface. Better yet, take your car to a professional car wash.
10. Don't get rid of old or unused paint by throwing it down the storm drain; dispose of paint and other household hazardous waste at recycling facilities.
11. Don't pump your pool water into the storm drain; pool chemicals can be hazardous to our creeks' habitats. Whenever possible, drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system where the water can be treated.
12. Don't Mess with Texas! Throw litter away in a garbage can, not out your window. Recycle what you can!

What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, toothbrush holders, and on pets' water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including man). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures, making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help to eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan

The City of Mission implemented a Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan to manage and provide an adequate water supply to meet the future needs of our customers. The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures to identify, classify, and manage an effective and efficient water supply during high water demand or water-shortage emergency. Excessive demand on the water treatment plants and/or continually falling treated-water reservoir levels, which do not refill overnight to a specific level, will trigger four (4) stages of the water conservation plan. These stages range from Stage 1 (voluntary stage) to Stage 5 (water rationing). Utility customers in the City of Mission are currently in a voluntary water conservation Stage 1 at the time this report is published and are encouraged to limit their daily water usage by using good management practices for water conservation. Utility customers will be notified prior to a stage level change. At such time, customers may incur a surcharge fee based on individual customer's water-usage history for Stages 3, 4, and 5. Fines that may exceed \$400.00 may be imposed for any violations of any stage of the water conservation plan, and depending on the severity of the violation, the customer's water service may be terminated.

TipTopTap

The most common signs that your faucet or sink is affecting the quality of your drinking water are discolored water, sink or faucet stains, a buildup of particles, unusual odors or tastes, and a reduced flow of water. The solutions to these problems may be in your hands.

Kitchen sink and drain

Hand washing, soap scum buildup, and the handling of raw meats and vegetables can contaminate your sink. Clogged drains can lead to unclean sinks and backed up water in which bacteria (i.e., pink and black colored slime growth) can grow and contaminate the sink area and faucet, causing a rotten egg odor. Disinfect and clean the sink and drain area regularly. Also, flush regularly with hot water.

Faucets, screens, and aerators

Chemicals and bacteria can splash and accumulate on the faucet screen and aerator, which are located on the tip of faucets and can collect particles like sediment and minerals resulting in a decreased flow from the faucet. Clean and disinfect the aerators or screens on a regular basis.

Check with your plumber if you find particles in the faucet's screen as they could be pieces of plastic from the hot water heater's dip tube. Faucet gaskets can break down and cause black, oily slime. If you find this slime, replace the faucet's gasket with a higher-quality product. White scaling or hard deposits on faucets and shower heads may be caused by hard water or water with high levels of calcium carbonate. Clean these fixtures with vinegar or use water softening to reduce the calcium carbonate levels for the hot water system.

Water filtration/treatment devices

A smell of rotten eggs can be a sign of bacteria on the filters or in the treatment system. The system can also become clogged over time so regular filter replacement is important. (Remember to replace your refrigerator filters!)

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

| REGULATED SUBSTANCES | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|---|
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| Barium (ppm) | 2013 | 2 | 2 | 0.11 | 0.11–0.11 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Chloramines (ppm) | 2013 | [4] | [4] | 1.75 | 1.53–2.04 | No | Water additive used to control microbes. |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 2013 | 4 | 4 | 0.56 | 0.54–0.58 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAA]–Stage 1 (ppb) | 2013 | 60 | NA | 24.4 | 19.9–28.9 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Nitrate (ppm) | 2013 | 10 | 10 | 0.04 | 0.02–0.06 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Selenium (ppm) | 2013 | 50 | 50 | 0.0045 | 0.0045–0.0045 | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines. |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]– Stage 1 (ppb) | 2013 | 80 | NA | 61.0 | 52.9–69.1 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Organic Carbon (ppm) | 2013 | TT | NA | 1.37 | 1.00–2.06 | No | Naturally present in the environment. |

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE) | SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Copper (ppm) | 2013 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.11 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead (ppb) | 2013 | 15 | 0 | 0.0 | 0/30 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.