

2010 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

City of Center – Public Water System #2100001
(936)-598-2941

OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED. 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.

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. (936)-598-2941 para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

Special Notice – Required 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 (800-426-4791).

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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:

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

The City of Center obtains its source water from two distinct surface water reservoirs. Raw water is drawn from both Lake Center, or Mill Creek, and Pinkston Reservoir. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources 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 will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available 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.

Public Participation Opportunities: Center's City Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:00pm in City Hall. To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us at (936)-598-2941.

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 concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

DEFINITIONS / ABBREVIATIONS: (terms used in tables)

- 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 Contaminant Level (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 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.
- Avg – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- 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.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million
- ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter - one part per billion
- ppt – parts per trillion or nanograms per liter – one part per trillion
- ppq – parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter – one part per quadrillion
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water.
- MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- na – not applicable

Inorganic Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2010	Antimony	0.928	0.928 – 0.928	6	6	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
2010	Barium	0.0481	0.0481 – 0.0481	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Chromium	0.446	0.446 – 0.446	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Fluoride	0.58	0.06 – 0.58	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2010	Nitrate (as nitrogen)	3.21	0.32 – 3.21	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Thallium	0.007	0.007 – 0.007	0.5	2	ppb	N	Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore processing sites; drug factories.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2010	Chloramine	1.73	0.51	2.89	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection By-Products

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2010	Total Haloacetic Acids	50	25.4 – 55.8	None	60	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2010	Total Trihalomethanes	60	33 – 89.1	None	80	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Year 2010	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Source of Contaminant
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.80	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.30 NTU	99.47 %	N	Soil runoff.

Lead and Copper

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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Collection Date	Contaminant	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
8/31/2010	Lead	2.1	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
8/31/2010	Copper	0.49	0	1.3	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Total Coliform – Reported Monthly Tests Found No Coliform Bacteria**Fecal Coliform – Reported Monthly Tests Found No Fecal Coliform Bacteria****Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents (no associated adverse health effects)**

Year (Range)	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Aluminum	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.2	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2010	Bicarbonate	19	12	26	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2010	Calcium	15.6	15.6	15.6	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2010	Chloride	11.2	7.30	15.1	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2010	Hardness as Ca/Mg	52.3	52.3	52.3	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2010	Magnesium	3.25	3.25	3	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2010	pH	7.0	6.8	7.1	8.5	units	Measure of corrosivity of water
2010	Sodium	9	5.24	13	20000	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2010	Sulfate	25.5	17.2	33.8	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2010	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	19	12	26	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2010	Total Dissolved Solids	113	106	119	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2010	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	53	53	53	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.



WATER CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT

– Although our system has an adequate supply of water to meet present needs, it is important to conserve water.

- Saving water saves energy and associated costs of operating a water system, which can be passed on to the customers.
- Saving water reduces the need to construct costly new water systems, pumping and piping systems, and water tanks.
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or droughts, helping to avoid water use restrictions and ensure that essential fire fighting needs are maintained.

You can play a vital role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever possible. It is not hard to conserve water.

Conservation tips include:

- Water lawns or gardens in early morning or evenings.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines when full, partial loads can use the same amount of water as full loads.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- 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 one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

More water conservation ideas and information can be found at:

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/>

<http://www.wateriq.org/ssw/index.htm>

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/conserve.html

<http://twri.tamu.edu/>

