

2010 Drinking Water Quality Report



LCRA West Travis County Regional Water System Your Drinking Water is Safe

We're committed to providing safe drinking water

The State of Texas has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This assessment identifies potential contaminant sources and will help in the development of source water protection efforts. Additional information about source water assessments can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html>.

LCRA tests your drinking water daily and reports the results to you annually in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. This is your report for 2010.

Tests conducted in 2010 verify that the water delivered by LCRA to residents served by the West Travis County Water System is safe according to federal and state standards.

Special notice from EPA for the elderly, infants, cancer patients and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system problems

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium* in drinking water. Although the

treatment process is designed to eliminate *Cryptosporidium* from your drinking water, infants, some elderly, or persons with compromised immune systems, 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.

What is the source of drinking water?

West Travis County gets its water from Lake Austin, one in a chain of lakes in the Hill Country formed by dams on the Colorado River. The lakes collect and store rainfall that runs off the surrounding land. Water is pumped to a treatment plant, where alum and polymers are added to make particles clump together and settle out. Filters remove any remaining particles. The addition of chloramines eliminates disease causing organisms. Treated water is pumped from the plant to a storage tank where additional chloramines are added, if needed. Treated water then passes through pipelines to your home.

Why must drinking water be treated?

The source of water — both tap and bottled — includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water flows over land or seeps through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, natural or manmade radioactive material. It might also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Untreated water may contain microbial contaminants, such as bacteria and viruses; suspended materials such as silt and metals; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemicals from industry and petroleum production; and radioactive contaminants that are either natural or the byproduct of oil and gas production and mining operations.

What effect does chlorine have on drinking water?

Chlorine is a natural element commonly used to disinfect drinking water. Since its use began in the

United States almost 100 years ago, chlorination has virtually eradicated waterborne diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery.

Scientists discovered about 30 years ago that chlorine reacts with naturally occurring chemicals in the water to create low concentrations of disinfectant byproducts (DBPs). EPA regulates the sum of these byproducts because they are considered a health risk if consumed in high concentrations over many years.

The disinfectant byproducts detected in your water are listed individually and as a total of these substances, total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids and they are in compliance with regulations.

What measures are in place to ensure water is safe to drink?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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.

EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulate the amount of certain substances in public water systems. LCRA and TCEQ routinely monitor these systems for the presence of these regulated substances according to state and federal law. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the quality of bottled water.

Special notice from EPA concerning Lead in water

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 the 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>.

Contact

For answers to other questions about your water system, please contact Sarah Bruinings at (512) 397-6766, or by e-mail at sarah.bruinings@lcra.org. The information in this report is on LCRA's Web site at www.lcra.org.

Contáctenos

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (512) 397-6766 o 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 6766, o por correo electrónico a sarah.bruinings@lcra.org.

Analyses

2010 Coliform

Parameter	Number of Tests	Result
Total Coliform	219	3 Total Coliform Bacteria
Escherica Coliform	219	No Escherica Coliform Bacteria

Total coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator for other, potentially harmful bacteria which may be present.

2010 Turbidity

Highest Single Measurement	Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limit for 95% of samples	Source of Contaminant
1.0 NTU	97.3	0.3 NTU	Soil Runoff

The average turbidity in 2010 was 0.06 NTUs. 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.

Key to Water Quality Terms

Action level (AL) – The concentration of a contamination that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Grain per gallon (gpg) – One grain per gallon equals 17.12 ppm. For customers with new appliances hardness is usually referenced in grains per gallon (gpg).

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allows 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 maximum contaminant level goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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 contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. The running annual average of the chloramine residual in the distribution system shall not exceed the MRDL of 4.0 mg/L

NA – Not applicable, constituent is not yet regulated.

Nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU) – A measure of turbidity. Only surface water systems report turbidity, groundwater systems do not.

Parts per million (ppm) – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10 million.

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

Water Hardness – 11 gpg or 191 ppm

Inorganics							
Year	Constituent	Highest Level at Any Sampling Point	Complies with Regulation	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Fluoride	0.26	Yes	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2010	Nitrate	0.38	Yes	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Sodium	19.3	NA	NA	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Oilfield activity.

Disinfectant Residual Levels – MRDL applies to the running annual average level and disinfectant residuals are in compliance.

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Chloramines	2.38	0.5	4.99	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) – System is in compliance.

Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Total Trihalomethanes	43.2	43.2	43.2	80	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Total Haloacetic Acids	20.9	20.9	20.9	60	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Unregulated Contaminants

2010	Chloroform	14.8	14	15.6	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Bromodichloromethane	16.2	15	17.4	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Dibromochloromethane	8.25	6.3	10.2	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Bromoform	<1.0	0.6	<1.0	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Dichloroacetic Acid	12.2	12.2	12.2	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Trichloroacetic Acid	5.4	5.4	5.4	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2010	Dibromoacetic Acid	3.3	3.3	3.3	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding the Action Level	Action Level	Units of Measure	Complies with Regulations	Source of Constituent
2010	Lead	9.2	0	15	ppb	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Copper	1.1	2	1.3	ppm	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Raw Surface Water Data

Year	Constituent	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	3.54	3.32	3.76	ppm	Naturally present in the environment. TOC has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts.
2010	E-coli	2	< 1	4	#/100 mls	Human and animal fecal waste. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with compromised immune systems. The water treatment process is designed to eliminate these bacteria.
2010	Cryptosporidium	0	0	0	Oocysts/L	Sampling required by EPA. Results are considered low.