

## OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide to our customers. The analysis was made using the data from the most recent Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about your drinking water supply.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The McAllen Public Utility Board meets publicly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 1300 Houston Ave., McAllen, Texas. These meetings are also broadcast live and recorded for viewing on MCN, which is also available for viewing at [www.mcallenpublicutility.com](http://www.mcallenpublicutility.com).

## SOURCE 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 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 byproducts 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.

## WHERE DO WE GET OUR DRINKING WATER?

The source of drinking water used by McAllen Public Utility is Surface Water. 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. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us. MPU receives water from the Falcon and Amistad Dams, located in Starr and Val Verde Counties, respectively.

## ALL DRINKING WATER MAY CONTAIN CONTAMINANTS

When drinking water meets federal standards, there may not be any health benefits to purchasing bottled water or point-of-use devices (such as a faucet filtration system). 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 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 1-800-426-4791. The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report.

## SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS

Many constituents such as calcium, sodium, or iron, which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, or odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas. 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.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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.

## 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>.

## WATER LOSS

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2020, our system water loss was an estimated 10.69%. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call 956-681-1600.

## HOW TO READ YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT

CONTAMINANTS								
Disinfectants and Disinfection byproducts	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination.
Constituent	4/25/2016	4.0	<1.0 - 4.0	N/A	50	ppb	No	Discharge from drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

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The date in which the tests were conducted.

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The amount from lowest to highest of a contaminant detected in the drinking water.

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The highest amount of a contaminant TCEQ or EPA allows in drinking water.

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Whether or not there was a violation by TCEQ or EPA standards.

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List of regulated, monitored, inorganic, radioactive, semivolatiles, volatile and organic compounds.

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The concentration of the contaminant detected

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The lowest amount of a contaminant TCEQ or EPA allows in drinking water.

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Standard measurement of a contaminant.

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How a contaminant ends up in drinking water.

## WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS: COLIFORM BACTERIA

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total coliform Maximum Containment Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Containment Level	Total no. of positive Fecal Coliform or E. Coli samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	0	0%	0	No	Present in soil, water, human, and animal digestive tract.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL) (MCL)	90th Percentile	Range of Individual	Range of Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/01/2018	1.30	1.30	0.01743	0.0051-0.2368	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	09/01/2018	0	0.015	0.0022	0.0004-0.0037	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**REGULATED CONTAMINANTS** Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorite	2020	0.524	0.038-0.524	0.8	1.0	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2020	.0135	.0101-.01535	No goal for the total	.06	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	.054	.0238-.054	No goal for the total	.08	ppm	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2020	.0024	<.002-.0024	0.0	.01	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2020	0.111	0.0939-0.111	2.0	2.0	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2020	.17	0.14-0.17	2.0	2.0	ppm	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	2020	0.70	0.59-0.70	4.0	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2020	0.25	<0.05-0.25	10.0	10.0	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2020	.0044	<.0030-.0044	.05	.05	ppm	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/Photon emitters	02/13/2018	5.6	5.6-5.6	0	50.0	pCi/L*	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	02/13/2018	<1.0	<1.0 - <1.0	0	5.0	PCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	02/13/2018	1.0	1.0-1.0	0	15.0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	02/13/2018	2.7	2.7-2.7	0	30.0	ug/l	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source in Drinking Water
Chloramines	2020	3.06	2.81-3.27	4.00	4.00	ppm	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Turbidity	Year	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	Total Organic Carbon
Highest Single Measurement	2020	0.07 NTU	0.3 NTU	No	Soil Runoff.	The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all the TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2020	100%	0.3 NTU	No	Soil Runoff.	Water Loss

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.



In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2019, our system lost an estimated 10.95% of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call 956-681-1600.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

- Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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.
- Avq:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL:** 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.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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.
- MFL:** million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos).
- mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).
- na:** not applicable.
- NTU:** nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
- pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion- or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million- or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
- ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

### For more information:

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