

2010 Water Quality Report

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 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.

For more information about this report or for any questions about your drinking water, please contact Javier Santiago, Water Systems Director, at (956)681-1700.

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 teléfono (956)681-1700 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

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; 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

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 12, which is also available at <http://mpu.mcallen.net>.

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. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source 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 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.

MPU's raw water supply is pumped from the Rio Grande River via a network of canals and pipelines maintained by Hidalgo County Irrigation Districts 2 and 3, United Irrigation District, and occasionally, Brownsville Irrigation District. The water is stored in reservoirs and then sent to our two water treatment plants for disinfection and purification. Our current treatment capacity is 58.5 MGD. MPU water systems have received a "Superior" rating for our water quality.

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.

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, 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.

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>.

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

ppt- parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq- parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Definitions

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 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 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million- or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion- or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

na: not applicable

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

2010 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive	0.8	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Disinfectant Type	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit	Source
Chloramines	2.9	1.6	3.8	4	4	ppm	Disinfection used to control microbes
Disinfectants and By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2010	24	10.7-24.2	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2010	38	13.9-40.9	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	01/31/2006	2.99	2.99-2.99	0	10	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium	01/21/2006	0.109	0.109-0.109	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2010	0.57	0.55-0.57	4	4.0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2010	0.32	0.17-0.32	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Turbidity

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/alpha emitters	01/31/2006	6.7	6.7-6.7	0	4	mrem/yr	N Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Highest single measurement		1 NTU	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination	
Lowest monthly percent meeting limit		0.3 NTU		0.28 NTU	N	Soil runoff	
				100%	N	Soil runoff	

Water Conservation

MPU is dedicated to providing clean, safe drinking water for many generations to come. We encourage you to join us in conserving water whenever possible.

For more information on water conservation and to view the current water alert status, please visit our Web site at <http://mpu.mcallen.net/conservation>.

We also encourage you to follow the irrigation zone schedule below. Watering on the specified days for your zone helps keep the water pressure across the city constant as well as cuts down on unnecessary outdoor water use. We appreciate your cooperation. During Stage 1 water alert, this schedule is voluntary,

Zone 1 Sunday and Wednesday NOLANA	Zone 2 Monday and Thursday
Zone 3 Tuesday and Friday	Zone 4 Wednesday and Saturday 10TH STREET
Zone 5 Thursday and Monday	Zone 6 Friday and Tuesday BUSINESS 83

but please be advised that if we move to a higher water alert stage, this irrigation schedule must be followed.

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