

# 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

## COE COUNTRY

Phone Number: 281-356-5060

### SPECIAL NOTICE

#### Required language 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 at (800) 426-4791.

### Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** Monthly, 3rd Wednesday

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** HMW Office

**Phone Number:** 281-356-5060

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

### Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

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.

**WATER SOURCES:** 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 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: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

#### *En Español*

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 281-356-5060 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: EVANGELINE, CHICOT. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) 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 our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year 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.

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

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**

The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

#### **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 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.

#### **Treatment Technique (TT)**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

#### **Action Level (AL)**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>NTU</b>   | - Nephelometric Turbidity Units                     |
| <b>MFL</b>   | - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)  |
| <b>pCi/L</b> | - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity) |
| <b>ppm</b>   | - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| <b>ppb</b>   | - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| <b>ppt</b>   | - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter        |
| <b>ppq</b>   | - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter     |

**Inorganic Contaminants**

| Year or Range | Contaminant  | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant  |
|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| 2009 2006     | Arsenic<br><i>* The arsenic value was effective January 23, 2006. In the event of a violation, you will be notified.</i> | 1             | 0             | 2             | 10  | 0    | ppb             | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                    |
| 2009 2006     | Barium   | 0.172         | 0.155         | 0.182         | 2   | 2    | ppm             | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| 2009          | Fluoride   | 0.04          | 0             | 0.12          | 4   | 4    | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| 2009          | Nitrate  | 0.29          | 0.09          | 0.55          | 10  | 10   | ppm             | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| 2006          | Combined Radium 226 & 228  | 0.27          | 0             | 0.8           | 5   | 0    | pCi/L           | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| 2006          | Gross beta emitters  | 2.33          | 0             | 3.8           | 50  | 0    | pCi/L           | Decay of natural and man-made deposits.  |
| 2006          | Gross alpha  | 1.57          | 1.3           | 2.1           | 15  | 0    | pCi/L           | Erosion of natural deposits.   |

**Organic Contaminants** TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

| Year | Disinfectant            | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Disinfectant                 |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------|-------|-----------------|--|
| 2009 | Chlorine Residual, Free | 1.27          | 0.05          | 1.99          | 4    | 4     | ppm             | Disinfectant used to control microbes. |

**Disinfection Byproducts**

| Year | Contaminant            | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | MCL | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant                     |
|------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|-----------------|---|
| 2007 | Total Haloacetic Acids | 0.3           | 0             | 1             | 60  | ppb             | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |

**Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts** WAIVED OR NOT YET SAMPLED

**Unregulated Contaminants** NOT REPORTED OR NONE DETECTED

**Lead and Copper**

| Year | Contaminant | The 90th Percentile | Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level | Action Level | Unit of Measure | Source of Contaminant   |
|------|-------------|---------------------|--|--------------|-----------------|---|
| 2004 | Lead        | 2.7                 | 0                                      | 15           | ppb             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| 2004 | Copper      | 0.028               | 0                                      | 1.3          | ppm             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |

**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>."

**Turbidity** NOT REQUIRED

**Total Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA.

**Fecal Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

## Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated

(No associated adverse health effects)

| Year or Range | Constituent                           | Average Level | Minimum Level | Maximum Level | Secondary Limit | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 2009          | Bicarbonate                           | 192           | 167           | 209           | NA              | ppm             | Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.   |
| 2009 2006     | Calcium                               | 53.7          | 45.9          | 58.6          | NA              | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.   |
| 2009          | Chloride                              | 47            | 45            | 49            | 300             | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity       |
| 2009 2006     | Copper                                | 0.005         | 0.002         | 0.007         | 1               | ppm             | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| 2009 2006     | Iron                                  | 0.007         | 0             | 0.02          | .3              | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.                      |
| 2009 2006     | Magnesium                             | 5.8           | 5.5           | 6             | NA              | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.   |
| 2009          | pH                                    | 7.2           | 6.8           | 7.5           | >7.0            | units           | Measure of corrosivity of water.  |
| 2009 2006     | Sodium                                | 30            | 29            | 31            | NA              | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.   |
| 2009          | Sulfate                               | 5             | 5             | 6             | 300             | ppm             | Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.                      |
| 2009          | Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> | 157           | 137           | 171           | NA              | ppm             | Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.  |
| 2009          | Total Dissolved Solids                | 292           | 270           | 306           | 1000            | ppm             | Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.  |
| 2009 2006     | Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>   | 158           | 139           | 170           | NA              | ppm             | Naturally occurring calcium.  |
| 2009 2006     | Zinc                                  | 0.028         | 0.016         | 0.049         | 5               | ppm             | Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.                            |