

2018 Consumer Confidence Report for Public Water System THE CONSOLIDATED WSC LOOP 304 SYSTEM

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2018

THE CONSOLIDATED WSC LOOP 304 SYSTEM provides surface water from Houston County Lake located in Houston County, Texas.

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Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (936) 544-2986.

Definitions and Abbreviations

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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.

Avg:

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)

Definitions and Abbreviations

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

Information about your Drinking Water

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.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office at 936-544-2986.

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; persons 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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

Information about Source Water

THE CONSOLIDATED WSC LOOP 304 SYSTEM purchases water from HOUSTON COUNTY WCID 1. HOUSTON COUNTY WCID 1 provides purchased surface water from Houston County Lake located in Houston County. This is a spring fed lake, which also collects run-off through the Little Elkhart Creek water shed. The activities conducted in this water shed are primarily farming, ranching and timber growing and harvesting. The most likely source of contamination would be caused from these activities, and would include fertilizer, fertilizer by-products (nitrates and nitrites), herbicides and pesticides.

A Source Water Assessment for your drinking water source(s) has been conducted by the TCEQ for your water system. The report describes the susceptibility and the types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information in this assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2018	1.3	1.3	0.048	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

2018 Water Quality Test Results

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2018	28	0 - 37.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year'

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	66	26.6 - 102	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year'

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Barium	2018	0.051	0.051-0.051	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2018	0.726	0.4-1.1.	4.0	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; Water additive.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2018	0.255	0.255-0..255	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Turbidity

	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	0.65 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	99.91%	95%	N	Soil runoff.

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 system and disinfectants.

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

Secondary and Other Constituents

Secondary constituents are not necessarily causes for health concerns but may cause taste, color and odor problems.

Constituent	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source in Drinking Water
Aluminum, Total	2018	0.16	0.16-0.16	0.2	mg/L	Water additive used to control microbes.
Bicarbonate Alkalinity	2018	22.4	22.4-22.4	NA	mg/L	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Calcium, Total	2018	16.2	16.2-16.2	NA	mg/L	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Chloride	2018	15.0	15.0-15.0	250	mg/L	Abundant naturally occurring element; Used in water purification; by-product of oil field activity.
Magnesium, Total	2018	2.56	2.56-2.56	NA	mg/L	Abundant naturally occurring element.
pH	2018	8.39	7.9-9.0	9	units	Measure of the acidity or basicity of water.
Sodium, Total	2018	7.36	7.36-7.36	NA	mg/L	Erosion of natural deposits; By-product of oil field activity.
Sulfate	2018	30.4	30.4-30.4	250	mg/L	Naturally occurring; Common industrial by-product; By-product of oil field activity.
Alkalinity, Total (CaCO ₃)	2018	22.4	22.4-22.4	NA	mg/L	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids	2018	113	113-113	500	mg/L	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	2018	51.0	51.0-51.0	NA	mg/L	Naturally occurring calcium.
Zinc, total	2018	0.007	0.007-0.007	5	mg/L	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element used in the metal industry.

Disinfectant Residual

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
Chloramines	2018	1.89	0.51-5.80	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level Violation MCL, LRAA/ TTHM

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified The Consolidated WSC Loop 304 System TX1130031 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes to be 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a locational running annual average (LRAA), and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value in quarter two of 2019 of 0.081 mg/L for DBP2-02.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

1. We have increased flushing activities in the affected areas. Moving water through mains is one means of decreasing the formation of disinfection by-products in distribution.

 2. We are investigating a source water change. This water is purchased surface water from Houston County WCID 1. While moving water through our lines can decrease disinfection by-product formation in our system, our efforts are limited by the quality of water supplied at our purchase point. For this reason, and since disinfection by-product problems are limited to our surface water systems, we are investigating a transition to ground water for your area. Ground water has fewer organic precursors and is less prone to formation of disinfection by-products.
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Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Amber Stelly at 936-544-2986.

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