

# 2008 Drinking Water Quality Report

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 71

PHONE NUMBER 281-897-9100

## 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 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.

### En Espanol

Este report incluye la informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono 281-897-9100 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Where do we get our drinking water? Our drinking water is obtained from Groundwater sources. It comes from the Chicot and Evangeline aquifers and also was received from West Harris County MUD No. 2. 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 human activity. The TCEQ has completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts by 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 Environmental Protection Agency 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, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. 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 for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Public Participation Opportunities

The Board of Directors of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 meet on the second Monday and the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 71 Administration Building, 21437 Clay Road, Katy, Texas 77449

For more information, please call Regional Water Corporation at 281-897-9100.

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

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Does Constituent Exceed MCL?	Source of Constituent
2002/2006	Arsenic	2.7	2.7 – 5.4	10*	0*	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2002/2005	Barium	0.152	0.115 - 0.189	2	2	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2008	Fluoride	0.78	0.60 – 0.96	4	4	ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2008	Gross Alpha	0.8	<2.0 – 1.6	15	0	pci/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2002/2005	Selenium	7.2	<3.0 – 14.3	50	50	ppb	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2007	Total Halo-acetic Acids	0.5	<6.0 – 1.0	60	N/A	ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2007	Total Trihalo-methanes	4.4	<4.0 – 8.7	80	N/A	ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

\*The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic decreased from 0.05 mg/l (50 ppb) to 0.01 mg/l (10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is between 5 ppb and 10 ppb, this information is required by EPA: “While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.”

## LEAD AND COPPER

Year	Constituent	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Does Constituent Exceed Action Level?	Source of Constituent
2007	Lead*	4.3	0	15	0	ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
2007	Copper	0.126	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

\*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 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS

Year	Constituent	Annual Average Level	Range of Detects (low-high)	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Does Constituent Exceed MRDL?	Source of Constituent
2008	Free Chlorine Disinfectant	1.1	0.3 – 2.7	4	4	ppm	NO	Treatment chemical used to control microbes

## MONITORED/UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2007	Bromodichloro-methane	0.7	<1.0 – 1.4	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2007	Bromoform	2.2	<1.0 – 4.4	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants

## MONITORED/UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2007	Dibromochloro-methane	1.5	<1.0 – 2.9	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2007	Dibromoacetic Acid	0.5	<1.0 – 1.0	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2002/ 2005	Sodium	121.65	41.30 – 202.00	ppm	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants

### DEFINITIONS:

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Coliforms** – Coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

**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.

**N/A** – Not applicable.

**ppb** – Parts per billion, which is a unit of measure for the amount of a constituent found in a specific volume of water and is equivalent to micrograms per liter.

**ppm** – Parts per million, which is a unit of measure for the amount of a constituent found in a specific volume of water and is equivalent to milligrams per liter.

**pCi/l** – Picocuries per liter, which is a unit of measure for radioactive substances. A pci/l is equivalent to two atoms disintegrating per minute per liter.

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