

# 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

## Public Input Opportunity

Your water board meets at 6:00 pm  
on the fourth  
Tuesday of every month at  
4127 Breckenridge  
Houston, TX 77066

To learn about future public meetings  
(concerning your drinking water) or to  
request to schedule one, please call  
us at (281) 367-5511.

## En Español

*Este reporte incluye informacion  
importante sobre el agua para tomar.  
Para asistencia en español, favor de  
llamar al telefono (281) 367-5511.*



Harris County UD No. 15  
PWS ID#: 1011778

## **Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal 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 on the back of this form. 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: 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.

### **ALL drinking water may contain contaminants**

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any healthy 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).

## **Special Notice for the Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or Other Immune Problems**

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immuno-compromised 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 for 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: (800-426-4791).

### **Where Do We Get Our Water?**

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water sources from Harris county UD #14 through an open interconnect. It comes from the Chicot Aquifer. 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 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 protections efforts at our system, please contact John Montgomery of our Regulatory Compliance Department at (281) 367-5511.

### About the Tables

The attached table contains all of the chemical contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants. All contaminants detected in your water are below state and federal allowed levels. The state of Texas allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

## DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS & UNITS DESCRIPTION

### ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS

<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal-</b> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risks. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
<b>MCL</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level-</b> 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.
<b>MRDLG</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal-</b> The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

### ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS

<b>MRDL</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfection Level-</b> 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.
<b>Avg</b>	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
<b>N/A</b>	Not applicable
<b>ND</b>	Not Detected
<b>pCi/L</b>	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>ppm</b>	parts per million, or milligrams per liter(mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
<b>ppb</b>	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

### Information from H.C. UD 15 (PWS # 1011778)

Inorganic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant	
2016	Nitrate	0.14	0.14 - 0.14	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2016	Chlorine Residual (Free)	1.33	0.62	1.82	4	4	ppm	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Product									
Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant	
2016	Total Trihalomethanes	3	2.9 - 2.9	80	No goal for the total	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	

Lead & Copper									
Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant	
2015	Lead <sup>1</sup>	5.000	0	15	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposit.	
2015	Copper	0.099	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposit.	

<sup>1</sup> 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/Fecal Coliform
REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.
REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

From January to December 2016, Harris County UD 15 received water through an open interconnect with Harris County UD 14. The following table contains all the chemical contaminants found in Harris County UD 14's water supply. If you have any additional questions regarding the water supply, please call (281) 367-551

**Information from H.C. UD 14 (Interconnect) (PWS # 1011781)**

Inorganic Contaminants								
Year	Contaminant	Highest Level		MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant
		Detected	Range of Detected Levels					
2015	Arsenic	4.7	4.7 - 4.7	10	0	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2015	Barium	0.326	.326 - .326	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Fluoride	0.17	.17 - .17	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2016	Nitrate	0.15	0.15 - 0.15	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Selenium	6.4	6.4 - 6.4	50	50	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Radioactive Contaminants								
Year	Contaminant	Highest Level		MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation	Source of Contaminant
		Detected	Range of Detected Levels					
2015	Beta/photon emitters	7.2	7.2 - 7.2	50	0	pCi/L*	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2015	Combined Radium 226 & 228	0.72	.72 - .72	5	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Gross alpha including radon and uranium	11.1	11.1 - 11.1	15	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	5	5.0 - 5.0	15	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2016	Uranium	9.1	9.1 - 9.1	30	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Lead & Copper								
Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding		MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
			Action Level	Action Level				
2016	Lead <sup>2</sup>	\$1.03	0	15	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposit.
2016	Copper	0.204	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposit.

<sup>2</sup> 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>."

**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.

**Outdoor Water Conservation Tips:**

- To keep your lawn healthy during the summer months - it only takes 1" of water a week.
- During the hot summer months, try to water in the early morning or late evening.
- In hot summer months, set your lawn mower to a higher setting, because taller grass helps hold in moisture. Cutting your grass too short can cause you to water more and can cause the

**Indoor Water Conservation Tips:**

- To save on water and energy, always run your dishwasher with a full load.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Check for leaks in your toilets and faucets. (A helpful hint is to schedule this for every six months when you are checking your smoke detectors.)
- When brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands, only run the water when it is time to rinse.