

# 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report



This report provides a summary of the important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by City of College Station Water Services to provide safe drinking water. Water quality test results shown for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013, are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports such as this one are required of every public water system to provide information to their water customers as stated in the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. **Your College Station drinking water system is rated "Superior" by the TCEQ and meets all State (TCEQ) and Federal (EPA) standards.**

### **Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS and IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS:**

*You may be more vulnerable 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 (1-800-426-4791)**.*

### **Bottled vs. Tap: Is there a difference?**

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 health systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. When drinking water meets federal standards, as College Station's water does, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point-of-use devices.

### **What about contaminants?**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Contaminants may also 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 College Station Water Services at 979-764-3660. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

### **Where do we get our 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 Sources and Source Water Assessments**

College Station relies entirely on groundwater for its drinking water supply, pumping water from 8 deep wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and one well in the Sparta Aquifer. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed an assessment of your source water, which describe the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. Results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be listed in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information about College Station's sources of water, please go to <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>. For details about drinking water sources and assessments, go to <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/> or contact Jennifer Nations at [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov).

### **Water Loss Audit Results**

The Texas Legislature now requires all retail public water suppliers to file a water loss audit report annually and notify water customers of the results. Water loss is water that is produced by the utility for which the utility does not receive revenue. A variety of factors contribute to water loss, including meter accuracy, reported breaks and leaks, unauthorized consumption, and unreported water losses.

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the fiscal year of Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013, the City of College Station recorded an estimated 389.43 million gallons of water loss. For more information about the water loss audit, please call 979-764-3660.

For more information regarding this report, contact Jennifer Douglass Nations at [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov) or call **979-764-6223**.

**EN ESPAÑOL:** Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono 979-764-3433.

**To learn more about your water,  
visit [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water).**

# 2013 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

## Inorganic Contaminants

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	HIGHEST AVG. DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION? Y/N	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2011	Fluoride	0.44 ppm	0.44 - 0.44 ppm	4 ppm	2 ppm	N	Water additive to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits
2011	Barium	0.0807 ppm	0.0807 - 0.0807 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2013	Nitrate	0.04 ppm	0.04 - 0.04 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

## Microbiological Contaminants <sup>1</sup>

Year Sampled	Total Coliform MCL	Total Coliform MCLG	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2013	5% of monthly samples are (+)	0	0.96 %	1 positive sample	0	N	Naturally present in the environment

## Disinfectant Residual, Disinfection Byproducts

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	HIGHEST AVERAGE DETECTED	RANGE DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION? Y/N	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2013	Chlorine	1.67 ppm	0.84 - 2.36 ppm	4 ppm	2 ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes
2013	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	24.04 ppb	10.7 - 34.42 ppb	80 ppb	0 ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2013	Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	1.88 ppb	0.0 - 4.2 ppb	60 ppb	0 ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

## Lead and Copper <sup>2</sup>

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	90th PERCENTILE <sup>3</sup>	ACTION LEVEL (AL)	ALG	VIOLATION Y/N	# SITES OVER AL	POSSIBLE SOURCE(S) OF CONTAMINANT
2012	Lead	2.16 ppb	15 ppb	0 ppb	N	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2012	Copper	0.121 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	N	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

## Secondary and Other Non-Regulated Contaminants <sup>4</sup>

YEAR SAMPLED	SUBSTANCE	DETECTED LEVELS	UNITS	LIMIT
2011	Alkalinity (Bicarbonate)	432	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Alkalinity (Total)	369	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Carbonate	9	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Calcium	2.82	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Chloride	52	mg/L	300
2011	Copper	0.0063	N/A	1
2011	Diluted Conductance	897	µmhos/cm	No recommendation
2011	Manganese	0.0066	mg/L	0.05
2011	pH	8.5	mg/L	> 7.0
2011	Phenolphthalein Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	8	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Sodium	193	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Sulfate	9	mg/L	300
2011	Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	7.04	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Total Dissolved Solids	513	mg/L	1,000

### Definition of Terms

The above tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Action Level Goals (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.

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

**Average or Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**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 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 (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.

### ABBREVIATIONS

N/A = not applicable  
 ppm = Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L). Equivalent to one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.  
 ppb = Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L). Equivalent to one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

<sup>1</sup> Total coliform bacteria are not disease-causing organisms themselves, but they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. They are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. In 2013, a total of 1,222 samples (at least 101 per month) were collected by Environmental Services personnel and analyzed by the Brazos County Health Department. Out of these 1,222 samples, a total of TWO samples tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria. Following each positive Total Coliform sample, the sample site, as well as one sample site upstream and downstream, was re-sampled. All repeat Total Coliform samples were negative. In addition, Fecal Coliform Bacteria was not detected in any of these monthly tests. College Station's water system continued to have no violations of the Total Coliform Rule in 2013.

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

<sup>3</sup> The College Station water system does not exceed the Action Level for Lead or Copper. 90% of College Station tap water samples measured at or below 2.16 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 0.121 parts per million (ppm) for copper. The Environmental Protection Agency considers the 90th percentile an "average" value for other contaminants. College Station did not violate the MCL for Lead or Copper in drinking water.

<sup>4</sup> Many constituents found in drinking water (such as calcium, sodium and iron) 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, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

### Public Participation Opportunities City Council Meetings, College Station City Hall 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7 p.m. | 979-764-3510

To learn about future public meetings concerning your drinking water, or to request one, please call the City Secretary's Office at the number above or College Station Water Services at 979-764-3660.

### UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Bill pay, connect/disconnect utilities

979-764-3535 or [epay.cstx.gov](http://epay.cstx.gov)

### UTILITY HOTLINE

Line breaks, sewer backups, power outages

855-528-4278 [24 hours]