

2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS

TX1120002
(903) 439-2891

SPECIAL NOTICE

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 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: The Sulphur Springs City Council meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location : The council room at the Sulphur Springs City Hall at 201 North Davis.

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

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OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

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 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 run-off, 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.

En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar at tel. (903) 885-7541 -para habla con una persona bilingüe en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from SURFACE water sources. It comes from Cooper Lake (our main supply) and Lake Sulphur Springs (our backup supply).

Information About Source Water Assessments

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for our drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer at the following URL:

<http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtsrc=>

This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come in contact with our 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 is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/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.

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DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to 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.

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.

ABBREVIATIONS

NTU -	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
MFL -	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
pCi/L -	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm -	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l) - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppb -	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l) - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppt -	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq -	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
Avg-	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
na-	not applicable.

Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range		Min. Level	Max. Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of contamination
2014	Fluoride	0.65	0.70	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2014	Nitrate (measured as nitrogen)	0.166	0.217	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Nitrate Advisory- Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

2014	Arsenic	0.000749	1	0.01	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2014	Barium	0.0518	0.0518	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Chromium	0.445	0.445	100	100	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from steel and pulp mills;
2014	Selenium	<.001	<.001	50	50	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Discharge from mines.
2014	Thallium	<.0002	<.0002	0.002	0.002	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories.
2011	Combined Radium 226/228	1	1	5	0	pci/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Atrazine	0.30	0.30	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicides used on row crops.
2014	Sodium	18.1	18.1	20,000	20,000	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits: byproduct of oil field activity.
2014	Mercury	1	1	2	2	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from refineries and factories. Runoff from landfills. Runoff from cropland.

Other Contaminants

2014	Acetone	7.1	7.1	100	100	ppb	N	An organic compound found in nail polish and paint thinner.
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Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year or Range		Min. Level	Max. Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of chemical
2014	Chloramine	0.5	3.92	4.0	<4.0	ppm	N	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts

Year or Range	Contaminant	Min. Level	Max. Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of contamination
2014	Total Haloacetic Acids	12.6	25	60	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
2014	Total Trihalomethanes	19.0	45	80	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.
2014	Chlorite	0.46	0.46	0.8	ppm	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper Year		90th Percentile	Sites over A L	Action Level	Action Level Goal	Units of Measure	Violation	Likely source of contamination
2013	Lead	1.22	0	15	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper	0.407	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	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

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.					
Year		Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely source of contamination
2014					
	Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.23	N	Soil runoff
	Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil runoff

Coliform Bacteria

Year	Contaminant	Highest # of Positive Monthly Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of contamination
2014	Total Coliform Bacteria	0	*	Presence	N	Naturally present in the environment.

* Two or more samples in any single month.

Fecal Coliform - NOT DETECTED

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Water lawns only in the morning during hotter summer months.
2. Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water, rather than a fine mist, to avoid evaporation.
3. Turn soaker hoses so the holes are on the bottom to avoid evaporation.
4. Water slowly for better absorption, and never water on windy days.
5. Condition the soil with compost before planting grass or flower beds so that water will soak in rather than run off.
6. Fertilize lawns at least twice a year for root stimulation. Grass with a good root system makes better use of less water.
7. Learn to know when grass needs watering. If it has turned a dull gray-green or if footprints remain visible, it is time to water.
8. Do not water too frequently. Too much water can overload the soil so that air cannot get to the roots and can encourage root disease.
9. Do not over-water. Soil can absorb only so much moisture and the rest simply runs off.
10. Operate automatic sprinkler systems only when the demand on the town's water supply is at it's lowest. Set the system to operate between two and six a.m.
11. Do not scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better.
12. Use a watering can or hand water with the hose in small areas of the lawn that need more frequent watering.
13. Learn what types of grass, shrubbery, and plants do best in the area and in which parts of the lawn, and then plant accordingly.
14. Consider decorating areas of the lawn with rocks, gravel, wood chips, or other materials now available that require no water at all.
15. Do not "sweep" walks and driveways with the hose. Use a broom or rake instead.
16. Use a bucket of soapy water and the hose only for rinsing when washing the car.