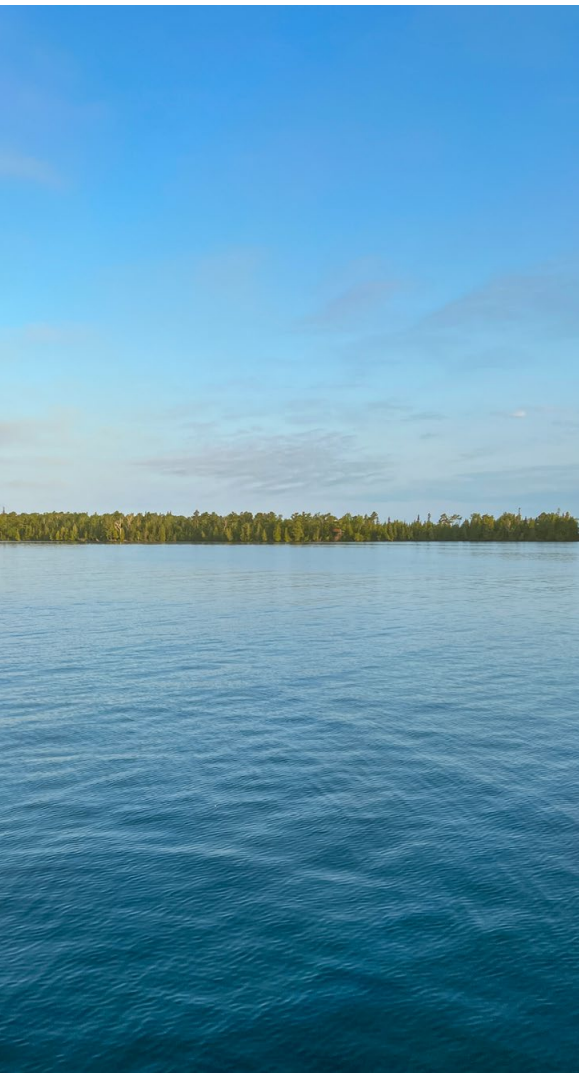
ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Presented By

Harris County WCID #1

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar.
Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (281) 426-2115

PWS ID#: 1010159

Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The sources of drinking water for Harris County WCID #1 are purchased surface water blended with up to 50 percent groundwater from the Chicot Aquifer. Our well sites are located on East Houston Street and North Battlebell Road in Highlands. Purchased water comes from the Trinity River and is processed by Baytown Area Water Authority on Thompson Road. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview.

Source Water Assessment

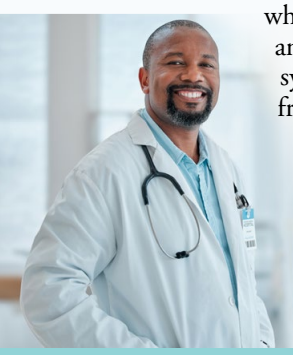
A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available from Drinking Water Watch at http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/. Our water system ID is TX1010159; Baytown Area Water Authority's water system ID is TX1011742

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed an assessment of your source water, and 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 detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confident Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Mark Taylor at (281) 426-2115.

Important Health Information

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, 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.



BAYTOWN AREA WATERAUTHORITY
PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

7425 Thompson Road
Baytown, Texas 77521
(281) 420-5310

Date 2/7/24

Public Notice

Dear Customer:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified Baytown Area Water Authority, TX1011742, that the drinking water being supplied to customers has exceeded the Secondary Constituent Level (SCL) of 2.0 mg/L for fluoride.

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system, Baytown Area Water Authority, has a fluoride concentration of .68 mg/L. On 1/24/25, the drinking water provided by your public water system, Baytown Area Water Authority, experienced a fluoride concentration exceedance of 2.81 mg/L at 9:33 a.m. Fluoride concentration was reduced by Baytown Area Water Authority operations staff and brought below the Secondary Constituent Level (SCL) of 2.0 mg/L the same day on 1/24/25 by 8:13 p.m.

Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternate sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/L because of this cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please call Superintendent Michael Gay of Baytown Area Water Authority at 281-420-5310. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Gay
Michael A. Gay
Superintendent - BAWA

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mark Taylor, General Manager, at (281) 426-2115.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the Tuesday following the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the water office, 125 San Jacinto Street, Highlands.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. Harris County WCID #1 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 two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead, 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 epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, public water systems were required to develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. Developing an inventory and identifying the location of lead service lines (LSL) is the first step for beginning LSL replacement and protecting public health. The completed lead service inventory may be viewed at the district office. Please contact us if you would like more information about the inventory or any lead sampling that has been done. No lead service lines or connectors were identified, but 829 galvanized service lines requiring replacement were identified. The district notified each service address by mail and will be in contact with them in the future to discuss replacements.

Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board during the year covered by this report, our system lost an estimated 38,056,112 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call Harris County WCID #1 at (281) 426-2115.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

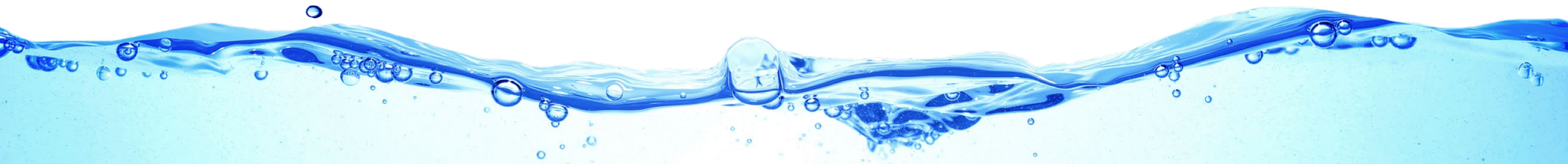
The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set (unless a TOC violation is noted in the Violation column).

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Harris County WCID #1		Baytown Area Water Authority			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Atrazine (ppb)	2024	3	3	NA	NA	0.14	ND–0.14	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.0455	ND–0.0455	0.058[1]	0.0516–0.058[1]	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/L)	2024	50[2]	0	NA	NA	4.9	ND–4.9	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2024	[4]	[4]	1.93[3]	0.53–3.40	3.56	2.78–4.28	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2021	5	0	NA	NA	1.5	ND–1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2024	200	200	NA	NA	180	120–180	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.74	0.66–0.74	0.6[1]	0.55–0.6[1]	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2024	60	NA	55.6[4]	ND–76.7	18.3	ND–18.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2024	10	10	1	ND–1	0.47	0.12–0.47	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Simazine (ppb)	2024	4	4	NA	NA	0.14	0.09–0.14	No	Herbicide runoff
Total Coliform Bacteria (positive samples)	2024	TT	NA	1	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2024	80	NA	58.4[5]	1.3–72.2	35.7	ND–35.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity[6] (NTU)	2024	TT	NA	NA	NA	0.25	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2024	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2024	1.3	1.3	0.32	NA	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits



UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES[7]

		Harris County WCID #1		Baytown Area Water Authority		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppt)	2024	18.4	ND–18.4	8.46	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppt)	2024	64.7	ND–64.7	29.7	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppt)	2024	3.5	ND–3.5	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lithium (ppt)	2024	11.2	ND–11.2	13.4	ND–13.4	Metal that naturally occurs in rocks and soils
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] (ppt)	2024	0.0043	ND–0.0043	0.0049	0.0055–0.0057	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluorobutanoic Acid [PFBA] (ppt)	2024	0.0074	ND–0.0074	0.0101	0.0075–0.0146	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid [PFHpA] (ppm)	2024	NA	NA	0.0032	0.0032–0.0037	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	2024	0.0043	ND–0.0043	0.0045	0.0036–0.0051	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluorohexanoic Acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	2024	0.0086	ND–0.0086	0.0095	0.0058–0.0098	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2024	0.0055	ND–0.0055	0.0059	0.0048–0.0060	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods
Perfluoropentanoic Acid [PFPeA] (ppt)	2024	0.0095	ND–0.0095	0.0102	0.0068–0.0102	Used in many consumer and industrial products, including carpets, rugs. upholstered furniture, nonstick cookware, and leather goods

[1] Sampled in 2024.
[2] The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
[3] Average for 2024.
[4] LRAA for second quarter 2024.
[5] LRAA for second quarter 2024.
[6] Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
[7] Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist U.S. EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

ppt (parts per trillion): One part substance per trillion parts water (or nanograms per liter).

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