

2010 Annual Drinking

Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

BMWD NORTHWEST

Phone Number: 210-357-5713

SPECIAL NOTICE

Required language for ALL community public water supplies:

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised 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 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: 4th Monday of the Month

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: 2055 W. Malone Ave.

Phone Number: 210-354-6500

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

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.

Source of 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 pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants 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, 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.

En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (210) 357 - 5713 -para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Where do we get our drinking water?

The source of drinking water used by BMWD NORTHWEST is ground water from the Edwards Aquifer. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(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 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 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.

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>.

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)
- ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
- ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	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.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
na:	not applicable.
Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

2010 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	5% of monthly samples are positive.	2	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.	1	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Maximum Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2010	Chlorine	.9	.3	2.2	4.0 <4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

Total Coliform

Total 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.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

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.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2010	1.3	1.3	0.171	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Lead	2010	0	15	2.83	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
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**Secondary and Other Constituents not Regulated
(No associated adverse health effects)**

Constituent	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL G	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Bicarbonate	2010	197	197 - 197	NA	NA	ppm	N	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Chloride	2010	16.8	16.8 – 16.8	300	300	ppm	N	Abundant Naturally Occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
Hardness as Ca/Mg	2008	228	220 - 228	NA	300	ppm	N	Naturally Occurring Calcium and Magnesium.
pH	2010	7.8	7.8	>7.0	>7.0	Units	N	Measure of corrosivity of water.
Sulfate	2010	14.0	14.0 – 14.0	300	300	ppm	N	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	2010	197	197 - 197	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids	2010	284	284 – 284	1000	1000	ppm	N	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL G	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2010	1.4	0 - 1.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2010	11.8	0 - 11.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
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Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL G	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2010	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2010	2	1.78 - 2	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations Table

E. coli			
Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, SOURCE (GWR), MAJOR	10/01/2010	10/31/2010	We failed to collect follow-up samples within 24 hours of learning of the total coliform-positive sample. These needed to be tested for fecal indicators from all sources that were being used at the time the positive sample was collected.

Steps to Correct Violations

Public notification made May 2011. Standard Operating Procedure revised, added quality assurance steps to ensure microbial monitoring forms are labeled correctly prior to submission to testing lab, training of staff in proper sample labeling and collection procedures in accordance with TCEQ rules and regulations.
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Fecal Indicator Positive Source Sample.	
Source of Fecal Contamination:	Facility 033WP1 Source ID# 0150171C
Collection Date:	10/4/2010
Corrective actions taken :	Disinfected ground water source as per AWWA standards and continued assessment source monitoring of the well.
Health Effects:	Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Other additional actions taken:	Obtained and tested additional raw and distribution water samples which came back negative, maintained adequate disinfection levels throughout the distribution system.