



2003 Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require that all community water systems provide their customers with an annual water quality report. 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. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. These regulations also set the schedule for collecting and testing drinking water. The Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water.

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements. The table on the back of this publication reports all of the federally regulated or monitored substances which were found in your drinking water. The EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 substances. Not listed are the many substances for which we tested but were not found. Many substances (such as calcium, sodium or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color and odor problems. These substances are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These substances are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document.

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

En Espanol: Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para obtener una copia de esta informacion traducida al Espanol, favor de llamar al telefono 210-922-1221.

Providing safe drinking water is our highest priority. The directors and staff of BexarMet Water District believe that delivering water to our customers that meets or exceeds state and federal quality standards is our greatest responsibility. The tables on the back of this page provide a profile of the quality of water you can expect from your tap. We have attempted to make this report as user-friendly as possible but it may appear a bit complicated.

There is a reason for that - the water industry is a complex business. It takes a great deal of experience, knowledge and application of the latest technologies to provide the most reliable and safest water possible to your tap. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be reviewing all of Texas' drinking water sources. The source water assessment has been completed and the report will be available this year. It allows us to focus on our source water protection activities.

Your questions and comments are welcome. If you have questions or comments about this report, call BexarMet's Customer Service Department at 210-922-1221. If you are interested in learning more about water quality and about how your water district operates, BexarMet's Board of Directors meets every 4th Monday of the month at BexarMet's Administrative Offices at 2047 West Malone. In addition, timely information about BexarMet can be found on our website at www.bexarmet.org. For more information on drinking water standards, the EPA has a Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, or connect to the EPA through its website at www.epa.gov. In addition, you can contact the state regulatory agency.

Bexar Metropolitan Water District Water Quality Report-Southside System (Edwards and Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifers & Medina River)

Year	Detected Substance (Inorganic Compounds)	Federal MCL	Federal MCLG	Highest Level	Range of Detected Levels	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2002	Gross alpha adjusted	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	3.4 pCi/L	0.0000-3.4000 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.096 ppm	0.0341-0.0960 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.8 ppm	0.1350-0.8000 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2002	Chromium	100 ppb	100 ppb	2.76 ppb	1.2490-2.7600 ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Thallium	2 ppb	1 ppb	1.17 ppb	0.0000-1.1700 ppb	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories.
2003	* Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	6.24 ppm	0.0000-6.2400 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Mercury	2 ppb	2 ppb	0.22 ppb	0.0000-0.2200 ppb	Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland.
2002	Gross Alpha Adjusted	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	3.1 pCi/L	0.0000-3.1000 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Combined Radium 226 & 228	5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	0.4 pCi/l	0.4000-0.4000 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Gross beta emitters	50 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	8.7 pCi/l	0.0000-8.7000 pCi/l	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Year	Detected Substance (Organic Compounds)	Federal MCL	Federal MCLG	Highest Average of Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2001-2003	Atrazine	3 ppb	3 ppb	0.09 ppb	0.0000-0.27000 ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Year	Detected Substance (Unregulated Contaminants)	Federal MCL	Federal MCLG	Average of all Sampling points	Range of Detected Levels	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2002-2003	Chloroform	Unregulated	Unregulated	1.5 ppb	0.0000-6.2000 ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2002-2003	Bromoform	Unregulated	Unregulated	4.2 ppb	0.0000-4.5000 ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2002-2003	Bromodichloromethane	Unregulated	Unregulated	5.3 ppb	0.0000-9.0000 ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
2002-2003	Dibromochloromethane	Unregulated	Unregulated	9.8 ppb	0.0000-9.8000 ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants
Year	Detected Substance (Disinfection By-Products)	Federal MCL	Federal MCLG	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2003	Total Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	0 ppb	8.65 ppb	0.00-14.70 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	0 ppb	28.5375 ppb	15.40-40.70 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Year	Detected Substance	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Highest Level	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2003	Turbidity	0.3 NTU	NTU	0.07 NTU	100.00	Soil runoff
Year	Detected Substance	90 th Percentile Values	# Sites Above Action Level	MCL	MCLG	Possible Source Of Contaminants
2003	Lead	2.5000 ppb	0	Action Level = 15 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of customer plumbing, service connection; Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Copper	0.1340 ppm	0	Action Level = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of customer plumbing, service connection; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Year	Detected Substance	Highest Monthly % Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Contaminants	
2003	** Total Coliform Bacteria	1.89	5 %	Presence	Naturally present in the environment. (Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of monthly samples.)	
Year	Detected Substance	Total Number Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Possible Source of Contaminants	
2003	Fecal Coliform and E. coli	1	Positive sample	Presence	Human and animal fecal waste. (A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.)	

* Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant you should ask your health care provider.

** Total Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment, are used as indicators of microbial contamination and may be found in association with harmful bacteria. BexarMet collects 100 bacteriological samples per month from the Southside system. In 2003, three (3) samples out of 1,200 tested positive for total Coliform bacteria, one (1) for fecal Coliform, and one (1) for E. coli bacteria. In order to ensure that the water was safe to drink, three (3) additional samples were collected for each positive result. All of the additional samples were negative for total Coliform, fecal Coliform and E. coli bacteria. BexarMet and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are confident that the bacteria found in the original positive samples did not originate in the water. Perhaps the samples were compromised by dust, pollen, or some other foreign matter entering the sample container as it was collected.

Definitions:
MCL - (Maximum Contaminant Level)- The Highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water
MCLG - (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)- The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health.
Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that the water system must follow.
Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.
ppm - parts per million
ppb - parts per billion
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units. This is the unit used to measure suspended material in water.
Turbidity - A measure of cloudiness of the water. It is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity level of filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU. In 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall not exceed 5.0 NTU anytime.
pCi/L - Pico-curies per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
ND - None detected, NA - Not available