

# 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

## BMWD GERONIMO FOREST WATER SYSTEM

Phone Number: 210-357-5713

***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. The 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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **Public Participation Opportunities**

**Date:** 4th Monday of the Month

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 2047 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 Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements**

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 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. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

#### ***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?**

Our drinking water is obtained from GROUND water sources. It comes from the following Aquifer: EDWARDS

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and will be provided to us this year. The report will describe 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 will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies. 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.

## **About The Following Pages**

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **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 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.

### **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 (µg/L)

**ppt** - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**ppq** - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

### Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2004	Barium	0.028	0.028	0.028	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2006	Fluoride	0.29	0.29	0.29	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2008	Nitrate	1.03	1.03	1.03	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

**Organic Contaminants** NONE DETECTED

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2008	Chlorine Residual, Free	0.71	1.0	2.0	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

### Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	2.9	2.9	2.9	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts** NOT YET SAMPLED

**Unregulated Contaminants** NONE DETECTED

### Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
1999	Lead	2.1	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
1999	Copper	0.103	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

### Recommended 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>."*

**Total Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA.

**Fecal Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

**Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated**

(No associated adverse health effects)

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2006	Bicarbonate	207	207	207	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2004	Calcium	72.3	72.3	72.3	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006	Chloride	10	10	10	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2004	Copper	0.004	0.004	0.004	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2006	Hardness as Ca/Mg	267	267	267	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2004	Magnesium	19.5	19.5	19.5	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2004	Nickel	0.002	0.002	0.002	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2006	pH	7.8	7.8	7.8	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2004	Sodium	7	7	7	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006	Sulfate	40	40	40	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	207	207	207	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2006	Total Dissolved Solids	287	287	287	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2004	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	260	260	260	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2004	Zinc	0.025	0.025	0.025	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.