Consumer Confidence Report 2003

(Drinking Water Quality Report)

Clear Lake City Water Authority

281-488-1164
www.clcwa.org

Serving the Community Since 1963

Know the Facts About Your Drinking Water

Clear Lake City Water Authority is committed to providing the highest quality water and service to our customers. The Authority supplies water to homes and businesses spread over 16,000 acres and currently serves 92,400 people. We strive to maintain, preserve and conserve our valuable water resources in order to ensure adequate water quality and supply for future generations.

This annual report provides information about the quality and sources of the drinking water you received in 2003. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The bottom line is that our water quality consistently meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitor our compliance with regulatory standards, including evaluating our susceptibility to potential threats and identifying corrective action. Drinking water standards continue to tighten, and our challenge is to meet these stricter regulations. Clear Lake City Water Authority's water system routinely receives the highest ranking (Superior) given by the State of Texas.

Where do we get our drinking water

Our drinking water is obtained from surface and ground water sources. The Authority draws most of its drinking water from Houston's Southeast Surface Water Treatment Plant near Ellington. The raw surface water comes from the Trinity River through Lake Livingston. On occasion, the raw surface water may come from the San Jacinto River through Lake Houston. We supplement surface water with ground water from our permitted wells during high demand in summer months. These are deep wells, producing water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for Clear Lake City Water Authority and is on file in our office. This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. More information about source water assessment and protection can be found at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html.

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. 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).

ALL drinking water may contain trace 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

How Can I Participate?

Board of Directors' meetings are regularly scheduled at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 900 Bay Area Boulevard. These meetings are subject to change and anyone interested in attending should verify the meeting date by calling 281-488-1164. Time is allotted at Board meetings for public questions and comments. Your attendance is welcomed.

En Espanol • Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su aqua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Published June 2004

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) 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.

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

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Units
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 (ug/l)

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 concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may affect the appearance and taste of your water.

George Mackey, Water Operator, taking bacteriological sample.

About The Following Tables

The Following Tables list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents which have been found in your drinking water. U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents. As you can see by the tables, no detected contaminants were above the MCL.

Inorganics

Year	Constituent	Highest Level at any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Arsenic	2.8	0.0000-2.8000	50	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2003	Barium	0.329	0.0414-0.3290	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2003	Fluoride	0.9	0.1000-0.9000	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2003	Nitrate	1.04	0.6700-1.0400	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2000	Nitrite	0.22	0.0000-0.2200	1	1	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Gross beta emitters	4.3	3.1000-4.3000	50	0	pCi/l	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

Organics

Year	Constituent	Highest Average of any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Simazine	0.14	0.0000-0.1400	4	4	ppb	Herbicide runoff.
2003	Di(ethyl hexyl)phthalate	0.04	0.0000-0.0400	6	0	ppb	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
2003	Atrazine	0.15	0.0000-0.1500	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2003	Xylenes	0.0006	0.0000-0.0006	10	10	ppm	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories.
2003	Toluene	0.0002	0.0000-0.0002	1	1	ppm	Discharge from petroleum factories.
2003	Ethylbenzene	0.1	0.0000-0.1000	700	700	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries.

Disinfection By-Products

Year	Constituent	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Total Haloacetic Acids	28.875	20.80-43.10	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Total Trihalomethanes	19.3333	0.00-26.80	100	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Microbiological

No fecal coliform or E-coli were detected in any of the 1,023 tests run in 2003.

Customer Service is our #1 priority.
We take pride in the water which is provided to our customers and are continually striving to improve. Any time you find your water's quality below your expectations, please call Customer Service.

Unregulated Contaminants

Year	Constituent	Average of all Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Unit of Measure	Reason for Monitoring
2003	Chloroform	11.81	0.0000-22.0000	ppb	Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.*
2003	Bromoform	0.37	0.0000-1.1100	ppb	*
2003	Bromodichloromethane	3.66	0.0000-5.0000	ppb	*
2003	Dibromochloromethane	1.37	0.0000-3.1600	ppb	*

Turbidity

Year	Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Turbidity	0.12	100.00	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

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.

Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2001	Lead	2.1000	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2001	Copper	0.570	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Utility Repair Work of Clear Lake City Water Authority

You may have noticed in recent weeks that there has been a good deal of utility repair work being done by personnel of the Clear Lake City Water Authority or CLCWA contractors. The aging of the Authority's utility lines has necessitated the repair work. It is quite normal for this kind of work to be done when utility systems age; the necessity for such work is oftentimes aggravated by subterranean problems routinely experienced in the Clear Lake City area. The CLCWA wants to continue its history of providing quality, efficient and cost-effective utility service. All of this work is a continuation of that effort.

In the conduct of its rehabilitation and repair work in the recent weeks and months, the Authority and its contractors have become aware of a number of situations involving homeowners who have built various structures that encroach into the Authority's utility easements. For example, the Authority has encountered situations such as encroaching swimming pool/spa aprons; swimming pool diving board pedestals; garage and garage structure extensions; shrubbery and trees; and various other encroachments. In many instances the encroachments into the Authority's easements of such structures have occurred without first obtaining a Privilege of Encroachment from the CLCWA. Even in instances where Privileges of Encroachment have been obtained, it is the responsibility of the lot owners to replace or repair any damage to any structures, facilities, or vegetation of the lot owner that are within the Authority's easement, should the Authority's work damage the structures, facilities, or trees.

To locate easements on your property, you can refer to the property survey received when your property was purchased.

Be Alert!

If you see any suspicious activities in or around our water or wastewater facilities, please notify the Authority at 281-488-1164 or the local authorities.

New Web Site

Clear Lake City Water Authority invites you to visit its new website:

www.clcwa.org

The prospect of delivering information to the public through on-line access is exciting. We look forward to bringing useful information to our community. The Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 can be accessed at the Authority website.

If you experience a problem with the webpage, you may e-mail:

webmaster@clcwa.org

Street Drains

The streets in this area are designed to function as a part of the drainage system, with the result that water stands the deepest at the lowest part of the streets where the storm inlets are located. Any waste dumped into the storm sewers may cause flooding. We still experience problems with the illegal dumping of foreign materials (tree limbs, grass clippings, leaves and oil) into the storm sewers and ditches. Please keep the drainage system open and free flowing.

Paul Segura, *Field Crew Leader* (on tractor), and Jose Nunez checking sewer tap on the main line in easement.

CLEAR LAKE CITY WATER AUTHORITY
900 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77058-2691

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WEBSTER, TX
PERMIT NO. 228

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2003

(Drinking Water Quality Report)

How Can I Help Protect Drinking Water?

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, or underground aquifers which is used to supply private wells and public drinking water. Preventing drinking water contamination at the source just makes good sense.

1. Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly, follow directions, and avoid applying them when rain is forecast. Sweep up any excess from paved surfaces.

2. Dispose of harmful material properly! If dumped or buried in the ground, hazardous wastes can contaminate the soil and either leach down into the ground water or be carried to a nearby body of surface water by rainstorm runoff.

3. Reduce paved areas around your home or business by planting trees or gardens to help rainwater soak into the ground.

4. Choose native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants often require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

5. Don't hose down sidewalks or driveways or sweep trash into streets or storm drains. Pick up trash and dispose of it properly.

6. Pick up after your pet.

7. Use a commercial carwash that recycles water or wash your car on your lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into nearby storm drains.

8. Don't dump chemicals or oil into storm drains. Ensure that leaks from your car are corrected immediately.

You Dump It – You Drink It!

Do You Know?

The Authority will accept used motor oil in sealed one gallon containers at its Maintenance Barn at 17507 El Camino Real. Just leave the containers at the gate to the facility. We do not accept paint or household chemicals.