



# 2008 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Phone: (361) 593-3313

The following report has been compiled using information obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and is compliant with the federal requirements for the Consumer Confidence Report.

*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:**

**800 / 426-4791**

### Opportunity For Questions

**If you have additional questions regarding this report, please contact the Environmental Health and Safety Office at: (361) 593-4131.**

### 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 is 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 este informe en Español, favor de llamar al telefono 361 / 593-3313 par hablar con una persona bilingue en Español.

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The drinking water at Texas A&M University-Kingsville is obtained from GROUND water sources through 1 water well owned and operated by the University, which pump water from the EVANGELINE AQUIFER. The 1 water well has a daily production of 450,000 gallon per day. In addition, we may also purchase an additional 5 million gallons of water per day from the City of Kingsville.

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the TCEQ 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 the 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 at **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 concerns. Therefore, secondary's 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 tables that follow, list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in Texas A&M University-Kingsville's drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents.

### Definitions

- **MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level**  
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.
- **MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**  
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.
- **MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**  
The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contamination.
- **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 contamination.
- **TT – Treatment Technique**  
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **AL – Action Level**  
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 Contamination
2008 - 2004	Arsenic	5.0	4.0	5.0	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
	<i>The arsenic value was effective January 23, 2006. In the event of a violation, you will be notified.</i>							
2008 - 2004	Barium	0.037	0.035	0.039	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2008 - 2004	Chromium	9.9	9.0	10.9	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
2008 - 2004	Fluoride	0.60	0.43	0.74	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2008 - 2004	Nitrate	3.66	3.52	3.78	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2008 - 2004	Selenium	7.2	6.3	8.4	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2008 - 2004	Combined Radium 226 & 228	0.11	0.0	0.33	5	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.
2008 - 2004	Gross beta emitters	5.3	2.8	7.2	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man made deposits.
2008 - 2004	Gross alpha	7.67	5.8	10.5	15	0	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic**

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic decreased from 0.05 mg/L (50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/L (10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is between 5 ppb and 10 ppb, this information is required by EPA:

*“While Texas A&M University-Kingville’s drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.”*

**ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS:****TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED OR NONE DETECTED**

**MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL:**

Year (Range)	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	UNIT OF MEASURE	Source of Contamination
2008	Chlorine Residual, Free	2.98	0.5	5.0	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

**DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS:**

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	UNIT OF MEASURE	Source of Contamination
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	1.3	1.3	4.3	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	4.3	1.3	4.3	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

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

**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS:**

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	UNIT OF MEASURE	Source of Contamination
2006 2005	Bromoform	2.85	1.38	4.32	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**LEAD AND COPPER:**

Year (Range)	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
2007	Lead	1	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits;
2007	Copper	0.041	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.

All water systems are required by EPA to report the language below starting with the 2009 CCR to be delivered to you by July of 2010. We are providing this information now as a courtesy.

*“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>.”*

**TURBIDITY:** NOT REQUIRED

**TOTAL COLIFORM: REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO COLIFORM BACTERIA.**

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.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
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**FECAL COLIFORM: REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.**

Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, E. coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals that are passed into the environment as feces. The presence of the fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
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**SECONDARY AND OTHER NOT REGULATED CONSTITUENTS: (No associated adverse health effects)**

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Contamination
2008—2004	Bicarbonate	244	241	246	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2008—2004	Calcium	20.7	20.2	21.7	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2008—2004	Chloride	241	233	246	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008—2004	Copper	0.011	0.003	0.028	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives.
2008—2004	Hardness Ca/Mg	86	84	89	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2008—2004	Magnesium	8.3	8.2	8.4	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2008—2004	pH	8.2	8.1	8.3	>7	Units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2008—2004	Sodium	297	286	305	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008—2004	Sulfate	156	147	164	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2008—2004	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	244	241	246	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2008—2004	Total Dissolved Solids	911	889	925	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2008—2004	Zinc	0.003	0	0.01	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.