

## SPECIAL NOTICE For the Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or Other Immune Problems

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons 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 from 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: **1-800-426-4791**.

## QUESTIONS?

If you would like to talk to a District representative about your Water Quality Report, please call **281-861-7265**. For more information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, you may call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

**En español:** Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono **281-861-7265**.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Directors of Harris County MUD No. 172 meet at 9:00 AM on the third Wednesday of each month at Houston National Golf Club 16500 Houston Blvd., Houston, Texas. You may mail comments to:

**Harris County MUD No. 172**  
**Attn.: Board of Directors**  
**5870 Highway 6 North, Suite 215**  
**Houston, TX 77084**

Or call **281-861-7265**

## ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our system and determined that our water meets or exceeds all federal requirements. This analysis is based on the data in the attached tables. If your water meets federal standards there may not be any health benefits to purchasing bottled water or point-of-use devices.

## WHERE DO WE GET OUR WATER?

Our drinking water is obtained from a combination of sources and is blended at our water plant. Our groundwater comes from the Chicot aquifer and our surface water is supplied by WHCRWA. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts contact us in our Regulatory Compliance department.

## 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**.

## 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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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>.

## WATER SOURCES

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. Federal Food and Drug Administration Agency regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 172

5870 Highway 6 North, Suite 215 • Houston, TX 77084  
281-861-7265



PWD ID#: 1012970

## 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 necessarily 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. For more information on secondary constituents contact H<sub>2</sub>O Consulting at 281-861-7265.

## DEFINITIONS AND UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

- AL** Action Level – The concentration level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, requires a water system to treat water or follow other requirements.
- MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level – 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.
- 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.
- MFL** Million Fibers per Liter (a measure of asbestos)
- MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level – 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.
- MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- NA** Not applicable
- NTU** Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
- pCi/L** Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppb** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L), or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- ppm** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L), or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- ppq** Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
- ppt** Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Harris County MUD 172 submitted to the Texas Water Development Board a Water Loss Audit for the 2015 calendar year. Our system lost an estimated 14,454,463 gallons of water or 6.5% of the systems water supply. If you have questions about the water loss audit please call H<sub>2</sub>O Consulting at 281-861-7265.

<sup>1</sup>Not all samples results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future. Compliance is determined by annual average.

<sup>2</sup>EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

<sup>3</sup>Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

<sup>4</sup>Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Data (UCMR): We participated in gathering data under the UCMR in order to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If any unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in the tables elsewhere in this report. This data may also be found on the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html>, or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## ABOUT THE TABLES

The attached table contains all of the chemical contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants. All contaminants detected in your water are below state and federal allowed levels. The State of Texas allows us to monitor for some contaminants<sup>1</sup> less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. In May of 2015, while the construction was being completed at Water Plant No. 2, Harris County MUD 172 purchased water from Harris County MUD No. 155. Harris County MUD 172 received over 95% of our water from WHCRWA in 2015. Their water quality information are listed in the tables below.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Inorganic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Barium	0.0924	0.0924	0.0924	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Cyanide	170	170	170	200	200	ppb	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
2015	Fluoride	0.28	0.28	0.28	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0.74	0.74	0.74	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Beta/Photon Emitters <sup>2</sup>	4.6	4.6	4.6	50	0	pCi/L <sup>2</sup>	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2015	Combined Radium 226/228	1.5	1.5	1.5	5	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Uranium	1.1	1.1	1.1	30	0	µg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Synthetic Organic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Altrazine	0.13	0.13	0.13	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Disinfection Byproducts									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) <sup>1</sup>	29.3	21.6	45.3	60	No Goal	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>1</sup>	26	20.5	32.9	80	No Goal	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Lead & Copper – Regulated at the Customer's Tap									
Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Action Level	No. of Sites Exceeding Action Levels	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant	
2014	Copper	0.084	1.3	0	1.3	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	
2014	Lead	0	15	0	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level								
Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloramine Residual	2.10	0.54	3.9	4	4	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 172 – Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents (No associated adverse health effects)							
Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloride	50	50	50	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; Used in water purification.
2015	Magnesium	3.94	3.94	3.94	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2015	Manganese	0.0068	0.0068	0.0068	0.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2015	Nickel	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Sodium	43.8	43.8	43.8	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Sulfate	31	31	31	300	ppm	Naturally occurring.
2015	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	101	101	101	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2015	Total Dissolved Solids	245	245	245	1,000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2010	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	97.1	97.1	97.1	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 155 – Inorganic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2014	Fluoride	0.29	0.29	0.29	4.0	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	0.74	0.74	0.74	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Combined Radium 226 & 228	1	1	1	5	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 155 – Unregulated Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Bromodichloromethane <sup>1</sup>	6.08	1.2	9.7	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromoform	1.4	1.4	1.4	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Chloroform <sup>1</sup>	10.9	2.7	18.4	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane <sup>1</sup>	1.62	1	4.9	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 155 – Synthetic Organic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Altrazine	0.1	0.1	0.1	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

HARRIS COUNTY MUD 155 – Disinfection Byproducts									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS) <sup>1</sup>	29.1	4.4	61.5	60	No Goal	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>1</sup>	18.5	3.9	27.6	80	No Goal	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

WHCRWA – Radioactive Contaminants (Regulated at the Water Plant)									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Combined Radium	2.32	1.5	3.2	5	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Gross Alpha	7.56	3	10.4	15	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Gross Beta	4.93	4.6	5.6	50	0	pCi/L	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2015	Uranium	3.57	1.4	7.8	30	0	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

WHCRWA – Synthetic Organic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Altrazine	0.17	0.1	0.25	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2015	Simazine	0.14	0.08	0.23	4	4	ppb	No	Herbicide runoff.

WHCRWA – Volatile Organic Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	D(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	2.72	0.76	6.2	6	6	µg/L	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
2015	Xylenes	0.00135	0.0005	0.0022	10	10	ppm	No	Discharge from petroleum factories.

WHCRWA – Unregulated Contaminants									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Bromodichloromethane <sup>1-3</sup>	8.47	1.7	15	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromoform <sup>3</sup>	2.2	2.2	2.2	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Chloroform <sup>1,4</sup>	29.15	8.5	46	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Chloromethane <sup>4</sup>	0.0031	0.0031	0.0031	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane <sup>1,4</sup>	2.09	1.2	2.8	NA	NA	ppb	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

WHCRWA – Inorganic Contaminants (Regulated at the Water Plant)									
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Arsenic	3.97	2.9	5.4	10	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposit; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2015	Barium	0.3	0.0465	3.6	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Cyanide	55	40	80	200	200	ppb	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
2015	Fluoride	0.28	0.18	0.34	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate	0.25	0.01	0.85	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Nitrite	0.01	0.01	0.01	1	1	ppm	No	Natural erosion.
2015	Selenium	4	4	4	50	50	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits.