2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Center – Public Water System #2100001

(936)-598-2941

This is the City of Center Public Water System's Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2011. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

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 (800-426-4791).

For more information regarding this report contact us at City Hall at (936)-598-2941.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Special Notice – Required for ALL community public water supplies:
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/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).

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

The City of Center obtains its source water from two distinct surface water reservoirs. Raw water is drawn from both Lake Center, or Mill Creek, and Pinkston Reservoir. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes 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 about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: http://gis3.tceq.state.ts.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=. Further details about sources and sourcewater assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/.

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 greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

DEFINITIONS: (terms used in tables)

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest permissible contaminant that is allowed 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.
- Action Level Goal (ALG) – The level of a contaminanat in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. A/LGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Avg – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on the running annual average of monthly samples.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water.
- MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- na – not applicable
- ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
- ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter - one part per billion or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
- ppt – parts per trillion or nanograms per liter – one part per trillion
- ppq – parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter – one part per quadrillion

Inorganic Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Arsenic	0.305	0.283 – 0.305	10	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2011	Barium	0.06	0.04 – 0.06	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Chromium	0.732	0.445 – 0.732	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Fluoride	0.7	0.06 – 0.7	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2011	Nitrate (as nitrogen)	2	0.08 – 1.93	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate Advisory – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six monthsof age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Organic Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	0.96	0 – 0.96	400	400	ppb	N	Discharge from chemical factories.

Radioactive Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
01/27/2010	Beta/photon emitters	7.5	0 – 7.5	4	0	mrem/yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
01/27/2010	Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	7.9	0 – 7.9	15	0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Collection Date	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2011	Chloramine	1.78	0.51	2.70	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection By-Products

Collection Date	Contaminant	Maximum Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Haloacetic Acids	40	21.1 – 56.9	60	NA	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Total Trihalomethanes	53	28.9 – 68.8	80	NA	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

* Not all samples may have been used for calculating the Maximum Level because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Turbidity - Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Collection Date	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Constituent
2011	Turbidity	0.30	100	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

Lead and Copper

Collection Date	Contaminant	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
09/01/2010	Copper	1.3	1.3	0.487	0	ppm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
09/01/2010	Lead	0	15	2.15	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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.

Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or *E. Coli* Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive *E. Coli* or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1 sample was positive	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Secondary and Other Not Regulated Constituents (no associated adverse health effects)

Collection Date	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Constituent
2011	Aluminum	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.2	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Bicarbonate	22	13	30	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2011	Calcium	12.3	10.8	13.7	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Chloride	16	11.9	19.2	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Hardness as Ca/Mg	50	49.6	49.8	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2011	Magnesium	4.7	3.81	5.51	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	pH	7.1	6.5	7.6	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water
2011	Sodium	12	7.32	16.5	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Sulfate	24	18.3	28.7	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	22	13	30	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2011	Total Dissolved Solids	113	105	121	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2011	Total Hardness as CaCO3	50	49.6	49.8	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.

WATER CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT

Although our system has had a sufficient supply of water to meet demands, last summer's drought demonstrates the impact of water conservation efforts. Thanks to conservation efforts we were able to maintain our water system so our customers had enough water to meet their daily requirements. These efforts will again be necessary as the summer heat and dryness comes this year.

Remember – **WATER CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT**

- Saving water saves energy and associated costs of operating a water system, which can be passed on to the customers.
- Saving water reduces the need to construct costly new water systems, pumping and piping systems, and water tanks.
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or droughts, helping to avoid water use restrictions and ensure that essential fire fighting needs are maintained.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever possible. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Water lawns or gardens in early morning or evenings.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines when full, partial loads can use the same amount of water as full loads.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you can save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

More water conservation ideas and information can be found at:

http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/
http://www.wateriq.org/ssw/index.htm
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/conserve.html
http://twri.tamu.edu/

Every Drop Counts