

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF ATHENS

Phone Number: (903) 675-5131

SPECIAL NOTICE

Required language for ALL community public water supplies:

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those 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 at (800) 426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: Thursday, July 1, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Athens City Hall Annex
501 N. Pinkerton St.

Phone Number: (903) 675-5131

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. (903) 675 - 5131 - 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 Lake/River/Reservoir/Aquifer: LAKE ATHENS, WILCOX AQUIFER. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(s) 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 allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. 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
2009 2008	Barium	0.071	0.032	0.104	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2009 2008	Chromium	1.7	1.2	2	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
2009 2008	Fluoride	0.47	0.2	1.18	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2009	Nitrate	0.28	0	0.51	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Organic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009 2005	Xylenes	0.38	0	1.5	10000	10000	ppb	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Surface Water Monthly Operations Report (SWMOR). On the CCR report, the system must provide disinfectant type, minimum, maximum and average levels.

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2009	Chloramine	2.6	0.4	4.9	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
2008	Total Haloacetic Acids	27.7	13.8	41.5	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2008	Total Trihalomethanes	33	16.8	49.1	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Unregulated Initial Distribution System Evaluation for Disinfection Byproducts

This evaluation is sampling required by EPA to determine the range of total trihalomethane and haloacetic acid in the system for future regulations. The samples are not used for compliance, and may have been collected under non-standard conditions. EPA also requires the data to be reported here.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Total Haloacetic Acids	30.8	0	58.4	NA	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2008	Total Trihalomethanes	40	0	53.8	NA	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

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 or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant	
2009 2005	Chloroform	16.18	0	41.7	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	
2009 2005	Bromodichloromethane	5.47	0	14.18	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	
2009 2005	Dibromochloromethane	1.21	0	2.85	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2007	Lead	8.9	1	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2007	Copper	0.132	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Required 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>."

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.							
Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant	
2009	Turbidity	0.30	100.00	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.	

Total Organic Carbon

Total organic carbon (TOC) no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Source Water	9.51	4.71	41.6	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2009	Drinking Water	2.98	2.55	3.29	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2009	Removal Ratio	54.8	36.5	93.0	117.3% removal*	NA

*Removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed by the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed.

Cryptosporidium Monitoring Information 2009 Not Found

We began monitoring for Cryptosporidium in April 2008, a microbial parasite that may be commonly found in surface water. Cryptosporidium may come from animal and human feces in the watershed.

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
2009 2008	Aluminum	0.011	0	0.033	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009 2008	Bicarbonate	88	20	115	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2009 2008	Calcium	10.6	5.1	14.5	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009 2008	Chloride	27	13	44	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity
2009 2008	Copper	0.003	0.001	0.004	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2009 2008	Hardness as Ca/Mg	29	16	43	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2009 2008	Iron	0.087	0	0.138	.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2009 2008	Magnesium	1.4	0.8	1.7	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009 2008	Manganese	0.0295	0.0169	0.0375	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2009 2008	pH	8.1	7.6	9	>7.0	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2009 2008	Sodium	54	19	70	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009 2008	Sulfate	12	8	20	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2009 2008	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	88	20	115	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2009 2008	Total Dissolved Solids	181	97	226	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2006 2005	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	24	6	33	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2009 2008	Zinc	0.015	0.005	0.031	5	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.