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Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2014

For the Period of January 1 to December 31, 2014

DEAR CUSTOMER:

Webb County Utilities Department, provides the day-to-day management of the water system working to provide you with water that meets—and often surpasses—all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All test results are on file with the TCEQ, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the TCEQ establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to provide a Water Quality Report to customers on an annual basis. This Water Quality Report contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at (956) 523-5590 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 – 4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

For any additional information regarding this report please contact Adrian Montemayor, Systems Manager at (956) 523-5590. Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (956) 523-5590.

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER:

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.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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; 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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 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>.

INFORMATION ABOUT SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS:

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(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 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.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW>

Source Water Name	Type of Water
1 & 2-RIVER BANK	RIVER BANK SW
3 & 4-TERMINAL RES AT PLANT	TERMINAL RES AT PLANT SW

ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT PROCESS

The Webb County water system provides roughly 1 million gallons of treated and purified water daily for nearly 6,700 residents in the Rio Bravo and El Cenizo area. The source of your drinking water is the Rio Grande River. We strive to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal standards. Water is purified at the Rio Bravo Water Treatment Plant. We purify the water using chemical treatment as well as settling and filtration techniques. Water treatment chemicals include lime, chloramines (chlorine and ammonia), alum, and polymers. These are added to remove impurities, kill harmful bacteria and eliminate unpleasant tastes and odors. Once the water is treated, the water is transported under pressure through a system of storage tanks and a network of pipes to your tap.

Our system including the Water Plant has met many challenges this year and will continue to do so in the coming months. We emphasize our commitment to our customers that we will continue to improve the quality of our water and our compliance with all standards set forth by our regulators.

2014 REGULATED CONTAMINANTS DETECTED

Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2014	1.3	1.3	0.13	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	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.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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 contaminants.
MFL	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
na:	not applicable.
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2014	38	22. – 63.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	69	42.8 - 126	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2014	0.0816	0.0816 - 0.0816	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2014	0.4	0.43 - 0.43	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2014	1.0	0.52 - 0.52	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	02/10/2010	5.1	5.1 - 5.1	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Dalapon	2014	1.2	0 - 1.2	200	200	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.

Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.74 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	66.6%	Y	Soil runoff

Information Statement: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

Violations Table

Consumer Confidence Rule			
The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR REPORT	07/01/2014	2014	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that informs you about the quality of our drinking water and characterizes the risks from exposure to

Interim Enhanced SWTR			
The Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule improves control of microbial contaminants, particularly Cryptosporidium, in systems using surface water, or ground water under the direct influence of surface water. The rule builds upon the treatment technique requirements of the			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONTHLY COMB FLTR EFFLUENT	02/01/2014	02/28/2014	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
MONTHLY COMB FLTR EFFLUENT	04/01/2014	04/30/2014	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
MONTHLY COMB FLTR EFFLUENT	05/01/2014	05/31/2014	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
MONTHLY COMB FLTR EFFLUENT (IESWTR/LT1)	06/01/2014	06/30/2014	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.

Lead and Copper Rule			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/01/2011	10/09/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/01/2013	10/09/2014	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period

Public Notification Rule			
The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	09/03/2013	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	10/01/2013	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	11/10/2013	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	02/01/2014	02/28/2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	03/08/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	05/31/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	07/02/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	08/01/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	09/12/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NOT LINKED VIOLATION	09/01/2013	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NOT LINKED VIOLATION	09/07/2013	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NOT LINKED VIOLATION	01/27/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NOT LINKED VIOLATION	01/31/2014	2014	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.