



2016 Water Quality Report

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Is My Water Safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 11 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we informed you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.)

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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Common Name	Source Type	Address	Aquifer
Lane Street Well	Well Water	921 Lane Ave., Athens, TX	Wilcox Aquifer
Scott Street Well	Well Water	811 W. Scott Street, Athens, TX	Wilcox Aquifer
Faulk Street Well	Well Water	415 Faulk Street, Athens, TX	Wilcox Aquifer
Lake Athens	Surface Water*	n/a	n/a
5200 FM 2495 Well	Well Water	5200 FM 2495	Wilcox Aquifer

* Provided by Athens Municipal Water Authority (AMWA)

Availability of Source Water Assessment:

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicated that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Ryan Adams 903-675-5131 or visit <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/> and type in the Cities PWS # 1070005.

Why Are There Contaminants In My Drinking Water?

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:

- **microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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, or 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; and
- **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 that 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

How Can I Get Involved?

Contact City of Athens City Hall at 903-675-5131 to speak to a City staff member. For regularly scheduled meetings please visit www.athenstexas.us.

Description of the Water Treatment Process:

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Your water is also treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill bacteria and other microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Level 1 Assessment:

A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria were found.

- Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.
- During the past year we were required to conduct one (1) Level 1 Assessment. One (1) Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one (1) corrective action and we completed the required one (1) of these actions.

Additional 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. City of Athens 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Average Mg/L	Typical Source
				Low	High				
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Chloramine (as Cl ₂) (mg/L)	4	4	.5	.5	4	2016	No	1.2 mg/l	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	110	4	110	2016	Yes	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	109	7.04	73	2016	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Inorganic Contaminants									
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.087	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	.4	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.8	.54	.8	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.069	.019	.069	2016	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	1	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines	
Radioactive Contaminants									
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1	NA	NA	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source		
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.15	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
Inorganic Contaminants									

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2	2014	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) - Violation
 Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level or MCL) for the time period of 1/1/2016-12/31/2016. The city has started to utilize more well water to correct this violation as well as retaining a professional engineering group to evaluate the chlorination process.

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
mg/L	mg/L: Number of milligrams of substance in one liter of water
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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 contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant 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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Ryan Adams
Address: 508 E. Tyler Street, Athens, TX 75751
Phone: 903-675-5131

