



# 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF JAMAICA BEACH

(409) 737-1142

## SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, AND 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 immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy; 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 1-800-426-4791.

### Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Phone No:** (409) 737-1142

**Location:** 16628 San Luis Pass Rd.

Jamaica Beach, TX 77554

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please contact 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 this report. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is 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 este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (409) 737-1142 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.*

### Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is purchased treated and pressurized from the City of Galveston. Galveston receives their drinking water from the Gulf Coast Water Authority (GCWA) in Texas City; the GCWA obtains their water from the Brazos River. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This report describes the susceptibility and types of contaminants that may come into contact with the 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/DWWW/>. 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 Environmental Protection Agency'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 concerns. 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 Page

The page that follows lists 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 up to 97 contaminants.

### DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to 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 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 (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 (ug/L)

**ppt** – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**ppq** – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Fluoride	0.25	0.25	0.25	4	4	ppm	factories
2008	Nitrate	0.1	0.10	0.10	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
2007	Barium	0.088	0.088	0.088	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
2006	Gross beta emitters	4.2	4.2	4.2	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

**Organic Contaminants**

Year (Range)	Contaminant	Highest Average	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Atrazine	0.37	0.37	0.37	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2009	Chloramine Residual	1.86	1.2	2.9	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

**Regulated Contaminants**

**Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products**

Year	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Violation	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contaminant
2010	Halocetic Acids (HAAs)	17	14.9 - 17.7	N	60	No goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
2010	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)	56	45.8 - 63.9	N	80	No goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Lead and Copper**

Date Sampled	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Violation	MCLG	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contaminant
8/11/2008	Lead	2.26	1	N	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
8/11/2008	Copper	0.352		N	1.3	1.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

**Required Additional Health Information for Lead**

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious 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	0.26	100	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Bromoform, chloroform, bromodichloromethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2008	Chloroform	7.2	2.3	17.9	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2008	Bromoform	10.3	1.9	28.2	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2008	Bromodichloromethane	14.4	8.3	24.1	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2008	Dibromochloromethane	20.5	14.1	34.6	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**Total Coliforms**

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms, therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2009	Total Coliform Bacteria	1	*	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

\* Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.

**Fecal Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

**Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated** NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED