

## Public Participation Opportunities

Date: July 15, 2013  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Phone: (254) 697-6646  
Location: City Council Chambers  
100 S. Houston Avenue  
Cameron, TX 76520

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

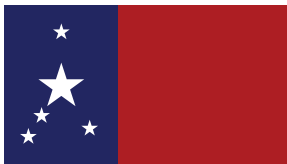
### En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (254) 697-6646 – para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.



**Cameron**  
Hometown, Texas

P. O. Box 833  
Cameron, TX 76520  
[www.camerontexas.net](http://www.camerontexas.net)



**Cameron**  
Hometown, Texas

# 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



## 2012 Test Results

We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The test results table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2012. In the table you might find terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

### Definitions

**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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Avg.** – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (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 contaminants.

**NA** – not applicable.

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

**Parts per billion (ppb)** – micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**Parts per million (ppm)** – milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/l}$ ) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – a measure of radioactivity.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immunocompromised such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk infections. You should seek advice about drinking water your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Violation	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	No	2012	0.0494	0.0494-0.0494	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	2012	0.2	0.24-0.24	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	No	2012	4	4.33-4.33	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

### Coliform Bacteria

MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. coli MCL	Total No. of Positive E. coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	6	0	0	Yes	Naturally present in the environment

### Lead and Copper

Contaminant (Units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	07/20/2010	1.3	1.3	0.241	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	07/20/2010	0	15	5.15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (Units)	Violation	Collection Date	Highest Single Sample	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	No	2010	4.5	4.5-4.5	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

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

## Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant (Units)	Violation	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>†</sup> (ppb)	No	2012	46	20.5-119	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>†</sup> (ppb)	Yes	2012	107	57.1-195	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>†</sup> Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

## Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides and herbicides)

Contaminant (Units)	Violation	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine (ppb)	No	2012	1	0.66-0.66	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	No	2012	1.6	0-1.6	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Simazine (ppb)	No	2012	0.09	0.09-0.09	4	4	Herbicide runoff

## Turbidity

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	5 NTU	Yes	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	85.49%	Yes	Soil runoff

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

## Violations Table

**Total Coliform** – Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL (TCR), Monthly	10/01/2012	10/31/2012	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.

**Asbestos** – Some people who drink water containing asbestos in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of developing benign intestinal polyps.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, Routine Major	01/01/2004	12/31/2012	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 indicated.

**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 Surface Water Treatment Rule.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monthly Combined Filter Effluent (IESWTR/LT1)	08/01/2012	08/31/2012	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
	09/01/2012	09/30/2012	
	10/01/2012	10/31/2012	
	11/01/2012	11/30/2012	
Single Combined Filter Effluent (IESWTR/LT1)	05/01/2012	05/31/2012	One turbidity measurement exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
	07/01/2012	07/31/2012	
	08/01/2012	08/31/2012	
	11/01/2012	11/30/2012	

**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	10/26/12	11/02/2012	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

# 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Our Drinking Water Is Regulated

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.

## Source 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.

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.

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water used by the City of Cameron is surface water. 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=>

## All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health 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.

## 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>.

