

# 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## 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. The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate 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 detections 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 Utility Director Curtis Donovan at 254-697-6646.

## 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.

## 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>.

## Definitions

The charts on the following pages may contain terms and abbreviations with which you are not familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following 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 ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

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

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



# 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

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.

## Public Participation Opportunities

Date: July 20, 2015  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Phone: (254) 697-6646  
Location: City Council Chambers  
100 S. Houston Avenue  
Cameron, TX 76520

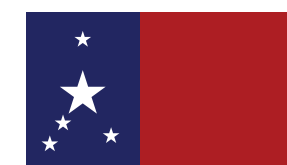
To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

## Questions

If you have questions about this report or your water service, please contact Utility Director Jerald Brunson at 254-697-6646.

## 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. (254) 697-6646 – para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.



# Cameron

Hometown, Texas

PWS ID# TX1660001

## 2014 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, 2014.

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 Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	No	2014	0.0541	0.0541-0.0541	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	2014	0.85	0.85-0.85	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	2014	4.62	4.62-4.62	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (Units)	Date Sampled	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	1.3	0.174	1	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2013	0	15	0.00472	1	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.*

Disinfection By-Products								
Contaminant (Units)	Violation	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Yes	2014	0.0642	0.0143-0.0642	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Yes	2014	0.1256	0.0748-0.01256	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection	

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	2014	0.14	0.14-0.14	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	No	2014	0	0	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Simazine (ppb)	No	2014	0	0	4	4	Herbicide runoff

Turbidity				
	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.5 NTU	No	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % Meeting Limit	0.3 NTU	95.4%	No	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			
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	04/01/2014	06/30/2014	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.
	04/01/2014	06/30/2014	
	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	
	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	
Total Coliforms - 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	08/01/2013	08/31/14	Total coliform bacteria were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, LRAA	07/01/2014	09/30/2014	Total Trihalomethanes were found in our drinking water during the period indicated in enough samples to violate a standard
	07/01/2014	09/30/2014	
	04/01/2014	06/30/2014	
	04/01/2014	06/30/2014	
	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	
	01/01/2014	03/31/2014	