



## 2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

### Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

**PWS ID Number:** TX0310002  
**PWS Name:** Harlingen Waterworks System  
**PWS Phone #:** (956) 430-6100

### Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (956) 440-6565.

#### Turbidity

	Year	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	2013	1 NTU	0.3 NTU	No	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	2013	0.3 NTU	100%	No	Soil runoff.

#### Lead and Copper

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/24/2012	1.3	1.3	0.122	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/24/2012	0	15	3.09	0	ppb	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Total Organic Carbon (TOC):** No health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
2013	Source Water	5.57	4.82	7.44	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2013	Drinking Water	3.28	2.96	3.82	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2013	Removal Ratio	1.31	0.98	1.78	% Removal*	NA

\*Removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed by the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed.

**Total Coliform** – Reported monthly tests found no total coliform bacteria.

**Fecal Coliform** – Reported monthly tests found no fecal coliform bacteria.

#### Definitions and Abbreviations

- **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.
- **Average** – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
- **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.
- **Action Level** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity).
- **ppm** – Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- **ppb** – Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – or one ounce in 7,250,000 gallons of water.
- **SU** – Standard units.
- **NA** – Not Applicable.
- **pCi/L** – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

**Questions?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call the laboratory at (956) 440-6565.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, immuno-compromised 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 at (800) 426-4791.

The City of Harlingen Waterworks System obtains its supply of potable water from the Rio Grande River. The supply is considered surface water. At the Harlingen diversion point, the water travels through a series of canals and is deposited into our holding reservoirs located at each of the two water treatment plants. The water stays in these lakes until it is processed for drinking. The Downtown and Runnion drinking water plants are both active.

**Water Loss:** In the water loss audit submitted to the TWDB for the time period Jan. – Dec. 2013, our system lost an estimated 409 (in 1,000,000) gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (956) 440-6579.

**Information on Sources of 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 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 byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 call (956) 440-6565.

**Information about Source Water Assessments:** 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, please call (956) 440-6561.

**Lead / Copper:** 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. The HWWS is 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Public Participation Opportunities:** A five-member board appointed by the Harlingen City Commission governs the Harlingen Waterworks System. All members of the community are invited to participate in our forum and to voice their concerns about their drinking water. The Harlingen Waterworks Board of Trustees meet once a month on the third Thursday of every month in the second floor Board Room of the administrative offices located at 134 East Van Buren, Harlingen, Texas. For a copy of the meeting schedule or agenda, please call (956) 430-6157 or access the Harlingen Waterworks web page at [www.hwws.com](http://www.hwws.com).

**Secondary Constituents**

Secondary Constituents	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Level	Units
pH	2013	7.2	7.1 – 7.2	> 7.0	pH

**Unregulated Detected Contaminants**

Name of Contaminant	Collection Date	Average Concentration	Range of Concentrations	Units	Name of Contaminant	Collection Date	Average Concentration	Range of Concentrations	Units
Chloroform	2013	5.9	3.5 - 10	ppb	Bromodichloro methane	2013	10.1	6.8 - 13	ppb
Bromoform	2013	7.5	2.1 - 12	ppb	Dibromochloro methane	2013	9.1	4.3 - 13	ppb

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Regulated Contaminants**

Inorganic Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2013	2	0 – 2.2	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2013	0.116	0.0989 – 0.116	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2013	0.6	0.52 – 0.58	4	4.0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate as N	2013	0.46	0.06 – 0.46	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

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)	2013	27	0 – 40	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	2013	47	0 - 64	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/Photon emitters	01/25/2011	5.4	4.9 – 5.4	0	50	pCi/L*	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Combined Radium 226/228	01/25/2011	1	1 – 1	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural 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
Atrazine	2013	0.11	0 – 0.11	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2013	1	0 - 1	0	6	ppb	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Vinyl Chloride	2013	0.6	0 – 0.6	0	2	ppb	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Disinfectant	Year	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramine	2013	3.3	0.5	6.8	4.0	4.0	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.