

2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

CITY OF DECATUR
 Phone No: **940-393-0200**
 Public Water System (PWS) 2490005

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2011

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Decatur 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 about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The source of drinking water used by the CITY OF DECATUR is Surface Water.

For more information regarding this report contact: Earl E. Smith, P.E., CFM at 940-393-0262

Health Information for Special Populations

Required Language for ALL Community Public Water Systems

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

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. 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 Contaminants that may be present in source water.

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.

Public Participation Opportunities

Date: July 23rd, 2012
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: CITY HALL
 201 East Walnut Street
Phone No: 940-393-0200

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

Information about Secondary Contaminants

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.

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. (940) 627 - 2741 - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Information about Source Water Assessments

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources(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=>

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

Water Quality Test Results

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 Contaminant Level or 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 Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

na: not applicable.

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Coliform Bacteria

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest # of Positive | Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level | Total # of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 0 | 1 positive monthly sample | 1 sample was positive | | 0 | N | Naturally present in the environment. |

Lead and Copper

Definitions: **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 (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # of Sites Over (AL) | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|-----------|---|
| Copper | 07/15/2010 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.056 | 0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 07/15/2010 | 0.0 | 15 | 2.84 | 0 | ppb | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

2011 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Regulated Contaminants

| 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)* | 2011 | 36.8 | 25.6 – 36.8 | No goal for the total | 60 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |

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.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----------|-----------------------|----|-----|---|--|
| Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)* | 2011 | 67.2 | 52 – 67.2 | No goal for the total | 80 | ppb | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----------|-----------------------|----|-----|---|--|

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.

| Inorganic Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Arsenic | 2011 | 1.24 | 1.24 – 1.24 | 0 | 10 | ppb | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Barium | 2011 | 0.05 | 0.05 – 0.05 | 2 | 2 | ppm | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Chromium | 2011 | 1.01 | 1.01 – 1.01 | 100 | 100 | ppb | N | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride | 2011 | 0.16 | 0.16 – 0.16 | 4 | 4.0 | ppm | N | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 2011 | 0.09 | 0.09 – 0.09 | 10 | 10 | ppm | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Nitrate Advisory – Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider. | | | | | | | | |
| Selenium | 2011 | 1.95 | 1.95 – 1.95 | 50 | 50 | ppb | N | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines. |

| Radioactive Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|---|
| Beta/photon emitters | 02/09/2010 | 4.1 | 4.1 – 4.1 | 0 | 50 | pCi/L | N | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. |

Turbidity

| | Limit (Treatment Technique) | Level Detected | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Highest Single Measurement | 1 NTU | 0.2 NTU | N | Soil Runoff. |
| Lowest monthly % meeting Limit | 0.3 NTU | 100% | N | Soil Runoff. |