



# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



***Presented By***  
**West Travis County Public  
Utility Agency**

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (512) 263-0125.



PWS ID#: 2270235

## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your source of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## About Our Violation

Violation Type: Monitoring, Routine (disinfection by-products), Major

Date and Length of Violation: January 1 - March 31, 2023

Explanation: We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant in the period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during this period.

Steps Taken to Correct Violation: All tests were performed as required.

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effect. However, it provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) may lead to liver or kidney problems or nervous system effects and may lead to an increased risk of cancer.

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”  
-Benjamin Franklin

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Community Participation

Public input concerning the water system may be made at regularly scheduled board meetings, generally held on the third Thursday of every other month at 1:00 p.m. at Bee Cave City Hall, 4000 Galleria Parkway, Bee Cave, Texas 78738.

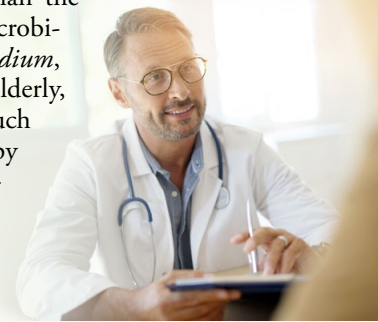
## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our source and sent to clarifiers. Along the way, chlorine is added for disinfection, and just before it reaches the clarifiers, aluminum chlorohydrate and polymer are added. The addition of these substances causes small particles, called floc, to adhere to one another, making them heavy enough to settle into a basin from which sediment is removed. At this point, the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. As smaller suspended particles are removed, turbidity disappears and clear water emerges.

Chlorine is added again as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Finally, a corrosion inhibitor (to protect distribution system pipes) is added before the water is pumped to reservoirs, water towers, and your home or business.

## Important Health Information

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 for cancer, 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 (800) 426-4791.



**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Customer Service at (512) 263-0125.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**5.1**  
TRILLION

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.

**12**  
THOUSAND

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.

**47.5**  
TRILLION

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.

**1.7**  
TRILLION

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.

**33%**

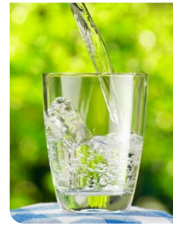
The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.

**2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.



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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 contact our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Loss Audit

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board during the year covered by this report, our system lost an estimated 374 mg of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call (512) 263-0125.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water source is Lake Austin, a reservoir on the Colorado River that is maintained as a constant-level lake by releases of water from Lake Travis, which is upstream.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.



The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

The percentage of total organic carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Barium</b> (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.0658	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Beta/Photon Emitters</b> (pCi/L)	2023	50 <sup>1</sup>	0	4	4–4	No	Decay of natural and human-made deposits
<b>Chlorine Residual</b> (ppm)	2023	4	4	2.95	0.75–4.2	No	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Combined Radium</b> (pCi/L)	2023	5	0	1.5	1.5–1.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Cyanide</b> (ppb)	2023	200	200	140	140–140	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
<b>Fluoride</b> (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.2	0.2–0.23	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1</b> (ppb)	2023	60	NA	12 <sup>2</sup>	9.6–16.1	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Nitrate</b> (ppm)	2023	10	10	0.16	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Total Coliform Bacteria</b> (positive samples)	2023	TT	NA	1	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 1</b> (ppb)	2023	80	NA	47 <sup>2</sup>	35.7–52.6	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Turbidity</b> <sup>3</sup> (NTU)	2023	TT	NA	0.5	NA	No	Soil runoff
<b>Turbidity</b> (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2023	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (µg/L) (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (mg/L) (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community**

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	1.3	0.665	0/30	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0	0.88	0/30	No	Lead service lines; corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year.  
<sup>2</sup>Highest average of all sample results collected at a location over a year.  
<sup>3</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Source Water Assessment

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the state regulatory agency, completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report.



Further details about sources and source water assessments are available from Drinking Water Watch at [dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/](http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/). If you would like to review our assessment, please feel free to contact Curtis Jeffrey during regular business hours at (512) 263-0125 or visit [wtcpua.org](http://wtcpua.org).

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one corrective action.