

SALEM ELM RIDGE WSC

2023 Consumer Confidence Report

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

For more information regarding this report contact Robert Jekel at (254) 697-4016.

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. To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please contact us. The board of directors meets each month at Simon George Hall, 401 S. Karnes, Cameron. Please call our office for the next schedule monthly meeting at (254) 697-4016 or (800) 826-4322.

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (254) 697-4016.

Sources 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 pickup substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, 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 contact the system's business office.

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; 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 (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 are 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Information about Source Water Assessments

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=>

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

SALEM ELM RIDGE WSC is Purchased Surface Water.

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location	
SW FROM CENTRAL TEXAS WSC	CC FROM TX0140161	SW	Active	Stillhouse Hollow Lake
City of Cameron	CC FROM TX1660001	SW	Active	Intake 1 – Gillis ST

A Source Water Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being conducted by the TCEQ and should be provided to us this year. The report will describe 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 in this assessment will allow us to focus our source water protection strategies.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
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 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 residual disinfectant level or 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 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.
MFL	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
na:	not applicable.
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picrouries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2023, our system lost an estimated 9,479,986 gallons of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call our office.

2023 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	Collection date	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Source of Disinfectant
Chlorine Residual, Chloramines	2023	1.39	0.51	4.8	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

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: 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	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2021	1.3	1.3	0.25	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2021	0	15	1.7	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

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)*	2023	21	0-23.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year								
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	40	18.7-47.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year								
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2023	4	0.19-4.02	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

**2023 Water Quality Test Results
CENTRAL TEXAS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION**

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorite	2023	0.732	0-0.732	0.8	1	ppm	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2023	18	9.9 - 21.8	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year'

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	42	19.5 - 50.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year'

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2022	0.0477	0.0368 - 0.0477	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2022	70	20 - 70	200	200	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	2022	0.2	0.22 - 0.24	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]	2022	0.2	0.11 - 0.2	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2023	1	0.13 - 1.3	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2023	5.2	5.2 - 5.2	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

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

Turbidity	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1.9 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	86%	0.3 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

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

Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

Violations

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 COMB FLTR EFFLUENT (IESWTR/LT1)	09/01/2023	09/30/2023	Turbidity levels, though relatively low, exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.
SINGLE COMB FLTR EFFLUENT (IESWTR/LT1)	09/01/2023	09/30/2023	One turbidity measurement exceeded a standard for the month indicated. Turbidity (cloudiness) levels are used to measure effective filtration of drinking water.

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	09/21/2023	10/05/2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	10/30/2023	11/30/2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	11/10/2023	11/30/2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.