

# West Travis County Regional Water System

## 2017 Drinking Water Quality Report

### DEAR CUSTOMER:

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.

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 and some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (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>.

The source of drinking water for West Travis County Regional Water System is surface water from Lake Austin. 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 our 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 in our system, contact West Travis County Public Utility Agency System Operator, at 512-263-0125.

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) generally 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:

- 1) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and
- 2) 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.
- 3) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Radioactive

contaminants, which can be naturally – occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining 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.

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. The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in our drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact, West Travis County Public Utility Agency System Operator at 512-263-0125

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based 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).

Public input concerning the water system may be made at regularly scheduled meetings,

generally held at 10:00 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 4000 Galleria Parkway, Bee Cave City Hall, Bee Cave, TX 78738. You may also contact Rob Pugh, General Manager of The West Travis County Public Utility Agency, at 512-263-0100 with any concerns or questions you may have regarding this report.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (512) 263-0125 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

### Definitions & Abbreviations:

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of 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 (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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

**Parts per million (ppm):** The equivalent of milligrams per liter (mg/l) is analogous to 1 minute in 2 years.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** The equivalent of micrograms per liter (µg/l) is analogous to 1 second in 32 years.

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

**N/A:** Not applicable.

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.



**Coliform Bacteria**

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	1		0	N	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	0.816	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2017	0	15	2.03	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**2017 Water Quality Test Results**

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Halacetic Acids (HAA5)	2017	29	15.6 – 26.9	No goal for the total	60	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 HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2017	55	42 – 56.2	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 or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2017	0.0554	0.0554 – 0.0554	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2017	0.2	0.21 - .021	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]	2017	0.35	0.35 – 0.35	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2017	4.6	4.6 – 4.6	0	4	mrem/yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made 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 or Average Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
DI (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	2017	1	1.1 – 1.1	0	6	ppb	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories



**Disinfectant Residual**

Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation (Y/N)	Source in Drinking Water
Chlorine Residual	2017	2.86	0.5 – 5.5	4.0	4.0	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes

**Turbidity**

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.

	Level Detected	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	0.9 NTU	1 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	99%	0.3 NTU	N	Soil runoff.

**Water Loss**

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan – Dec 2017, our system lost an estimated 284 MG of water. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please contact West Travis County PUA at 512-263-0125

**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 Table**

Lead and Copper Rule

The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
WATER QUALITY PARAMETER M/R (LCR)	07/01/2017	12/31/2017	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.



The West Travis County Public Utility Agency was recently informed that in 2005, seven years before the WTCPUA was formed, the LCRA West Travis County Regional Water System had an MCL violation for total coliform. Repeat samples were taken and system returned to compliance that same month. This violation required a public notice, but TCEQ did not have record of receiving this notice.

The contamination may have been related to operator error in collecting the sample or at the lab, although there is no way to confirm. It is our number one goal to ensure the safety of the water and we are taking additional steps in monitoring and operator training in sampling. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact us at the number above.

#### MCL Coliform Violation (TCR 22)

The LCRA West Travis County Regional water system collected 2 water samples during January, 2005 that contained coliform bacteria. This water system is required to submit a minimum of 10 routine water samples each month for bacteriological analysis. 2 routine samples were coliform found and 0 repeat samples were coliform-found for the month and year indicated above.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. 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.

For water systems analyzing at least 40 samples per month, no more than five (5) percent of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform. For systems analyzing fewer than 40 samples per month, no more than one (1) sample per month may be positive for total coliform. If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Curtis Jeffrey at (512) 765-3207.



**LEAD AND COPPER RULE MONITORING AND REPORTING VIOLATION**  
**MANDATORY LANGUAGE – TIER III**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

West Travis County Public Utility Agency has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Chapter 30, Section 290, Subchapter F. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing (or did) to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During July to December 2017 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for Water Quality Parameters and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.*

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for [these contaminants], how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which the follow-up samples were [or will be] taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
<i>Lead and copper tap water sampling</i>				
<i>Lead and Copper entry point sampling</i>				
<i>Water quality parameters</i>	2 per 6 months	20	Before December 31, 2017	February 2018 and April 2018

**What is being Done?**

We have collected the remaining samples and this issue has been resolved. For more information, please contact Curtis Jeffrey at 512-765-3207 or [cjeffrey@wtcpua.org](mailto:cjeffrey@wtcpua.org)

*Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by WTCPUA. Public Water System Number: TX2270235

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