

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

SOUTHERN WATER CORP. HIDDEN VALLEY WATER SYSTEM 713-692-3595

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. **We believe that the most important information contained in the report is that the Utility's water supply was found to meet the requirements set by the state and federal governments for drinking water.** Please call Southern Water Corp. at 713-692-3595 if you have any questions regarding this report.

En Español

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono 713-692-3595.

Public Participation Opportunities Date: None Scheduled

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

Special Notice Required Language for ALL Community Public Water Supplies:

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 (800-426-4791).

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water used by HIDDEN VALLEY WATER SYSTEM is Ground Water from the Evangeline and Chicot Aquifers, and is located in **Houston, TX (Harris County)**. An aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand and gravel) that is saturated with water. The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that our sources have a low susceptibility to contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact us at the above number. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview> Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

Source 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 pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment 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, 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.

ALL Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Protecting the Water You Drink

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.

Secondary Constituents

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 necessarily causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Required Additional Health Information for Lead

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 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>.

Abbreviations & Definitions - The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation

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

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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a 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 contamination.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

pCi/l - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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

ppm - Milligrams per liter or parts per million (mg/l) - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb - Micrograms per liter or parts per billion (µg/l) - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

na - Not applicable

| Constituent | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | 7/17/2023 | 10.5 | 10.5-10.5 | No goal for the total | 80 | ppb | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | 7/17/2023 | 1.1 | 1.1-1.1 | No goal for the total | 60 | ppb | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Arsenic | 7/17/2023 | 2.3 | 2.3-2.3 | 2 | 2 | ppm | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Barium | 7/17/2023 | 0.368 | 0.368-0.368 | 2 | 2 | ppm | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Fluoride | 7/17/2023 | 0.22 | 0.22-0.22 | 4 | 4 | ppm | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (Measured at Nitrogen) | 7/17/2023 | 0.11 | 0.11-0.11 | 10 | 10 | ppm | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead & Copper | | | | | | | | |
| | Collection Date | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Copper | 8/2022 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.0325 | 0 | ppm | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead | 8/2022 | 0 | 15 | 0.7 | 0 | ppb | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Beta/photon emitters | 7/17/2023 | 6.4 | 6.4-6.4 | 0 | 50 | pCi/L* | No | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. *EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. |
| Uranium | 7/17/2023 | 5.8 | 5.8-5.8 | 0 | 30 | µg/l | No | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level | | | | | | | | |
| | Collection Date | Average Level | Range of Levels Detected | MRDLG | MRDL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Chlorine Residual, Free | 2023 | 1.44 | 1.03-1.68 | <4 | 4 | ppm | No | Disinfectant used to control microbes. |