

# 2013 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

## BLOCK HOUSE M.U.D.

Phone No. (512) 246-1400

*Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:*

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water, such as Cryptosporidium, than the general population. 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. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (1-800-426-4791).

### **Public Participation Opportunities**

The Board of Directors meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Walker House at 2600 Block House Drive South. Please call (512) 246-1400 to confirm meeting dates and times.

The District's water system is operated by Crossroads Utility Services. If you have any questions concerning water quality or the source of your water, please call (512) 246-1400 or (512) 246-5905.

### **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.

**WATER SOURCES:** 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: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

### ***En Espanol***

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol favor de llamar al tel. (512) 246-1400 para hablar con una persona bilingue en español.

## **Where do we get our drinking water?**

Your drinking water is supplied to you through the distribution system as owned by Block House M.U.D. The District purchases all of its water from the City of Cedar Park, who obtains surface water from Lake Travis. The City of Cedar Park treats and filters the water from these sources according to federal and state standards, removing harmful contaminants. The TCEQ has completed a Source Water Susceptibility for all drinking water systems that own their sources. This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with drinking water sources based on human activities and natural conditions. The system(s) from which we purchase our water received the assessment report.

### ***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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **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 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.

## **About the Following Pages**

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

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**

The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

#### **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

#### **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.

#### **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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 contamination.

#### **Treatment Technique (TT)**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

#### **Action Level (AL)**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**Inorganic Contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
2013	Arsenic (ppm)	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.01	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2012	Asbestos (MFL)	<0.1989	<0.1989	<0.1989	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Barium (ppm)	0.0649	0.0649	0.0649	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Fluoride (ppm)	0.57	0.57	0.57	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2013	Nitrate* (ppm)	0.2	0.2	0.2	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Nitrite (ppm)	0.004	0.004	0.004	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2012	Nitrate-Nitrite* (ppm)	0.3	0.3	0.3	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Beta/pton emitters (pCi/L)	4.5	4.5	4.5	50**	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

\* Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider \*\*The actual MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

**Organic Contaminants**

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
2013	Atrazine (ppb)	<0.08	<0.08	<0.08	3.0	3.0	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2011	Simazene (ppb)	<0.07	<0.07	<0.07	4.0	4.0	Herbicide runoff.
2011	Toxaphene (ppb)	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	3.0	3.0	Insecticide.
2013	Xylenes (ppb)	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	10000	10000	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Units	Source of Disinfectant
2012	Vinyl Chloride	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	2	ppb	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge of plastic factories

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Source of Disinfectant
2013	Chloramines (ppm)	2.24	1.1	3.5	4.0	<4.0	Disinfectant used to control microbes

**Disinfection Byproducts**

Year	Contaminant	LRAnnual Average	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2013	Total Haloacetic Acids	30.3	17.8	37.3	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Total Trihalomethanes	72.15	40.3	82.0	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Unregulated Contaminants**

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochoromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.							
Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level		Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2013	Chloroform	18.14	8.68	27.5		ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Bromoform	4.80	3.45	6.16		ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Bromodichloromethane	20.26	11.8	27.9		ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2013	Dibromochoromethane	16.37	14.2	20.5		ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Lead and Copper**

Year	Contaminant	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2013	Lead	1.3	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper	0.659	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

**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 material used 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>.”

**Turbidity**

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.						
Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Source of Contaminant	
2013	Turbidity (NTU)	0.8	99.09	0.3	Soil runoff.	

**Total Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

**Fecal Coliform** REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

**Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated** (No associated adverse health effects)

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Limit	Source of Contaminant
2013	Aluminum (ppm)	0.00401	0.00401	0.00401	0.2	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2013	Bicarbonate (ppm)	153	153	153	NA	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2013	Calcium (ppm)	38.1	38.1	38.1	NA	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2013	Chloride (ppm)	42.3	42.3	42.3	300	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2013	Iron (ppm)	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	NA	Naturally occurring mineral.
2013	Magnesium (ppm)	21.8	21.8	21.8	NA	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2013	Manganese (ppm)	<0.0004	<0.0004	<0.0004	0.05	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2013	Nickel (ppm)	0.00252	0.00252	0.00252	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits.
2012	pH (units)	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2012	Sodium (ppm)	23.5	23.5	23.5	NA	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2013	Sulfate (ppm)	26.8	26.8	26.8	300	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2013	Total Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	153	153	153	NA	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2013	Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	279	279	279	1000	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2013	Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (ppm)	185	185	185	NA	Naturally occurring calcium.
2013	Zinc (ppm)	0.00516	0.00516	0.00516	5	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element; used in the metal industry.

**PWS # 2460110**