

# HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 286

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID 1012532

### 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Board of Directors of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 286 ("the District") is pleased to give you this report about our drinking water based on 2015 test results. The District is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act to send the report each year. The content of this report is specified by the State of Texas.

Please call the District's operator, Environmental Development Partners ("EDP"), at **832-467-1599** if you have any questions regarding this report.

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers, was created by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented on the following page. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

#### En Español

***Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar a Harris County MUD 286 al telefono 832-467-1599.***

#### Public Participation Opportunities

The Board meets regularly each month at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at 20303 Chasewood Park, Houston, TX 77070. For additional information regarding the meeting call **832-467-1599** or send your comments to:

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 286  
P.O. Box 690928  
Houston, Texas 77269-0928

Data contained in this report were collected in 2015 except where noted. The State of Texas allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentration of these substances does not change frequently. Although the Water District samples your water for up to 97 substances we are listing only those substances that were detected in your water. For additional information about your water quality please contact our operator, EDP, at **832-467-1599**.

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan-Dec 2015, our system lost an estimated 28,870,064 gallons of water. Overall, our system accounted for approximately 86% of the water produced during that period. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call 832-467-1599.

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

The District's water treatment facilities obtained their water from a groundwater well that draws water from the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers and surface water from the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. An aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand and gravel) that is saturated with water. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 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 detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. 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 our source water protection strategies. Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts please call our District operator's office at **832-467-1599** Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

#### Interconnected Water Supplies

The District can receive water from adjoining water districts during emergency situations and maintenance periods. The adjoining Districts are Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 468 and Malcomson Road Municipal Utility District. The water sources for these districts are ground water wells drawing water from the same aquifer as Harris County MUD 286 and surface water from the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. For additional information about the water quality for these systems, please call our District operator at **832-467-1599**.

#### Protecting the Water You Drink

The USEPA is an agency of the federal government of the United States charged to protect human health and the environment, by writing and enforcing regulations. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health as public water systems.

#### 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. They are regulated by the State of Texas, not the USEPA. Since secondary constituents are not causes for health concerns they are not required to be reported in this document. However, they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For additional information about the water quality for this system please call our District operator at **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599**.

#### 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

#### 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, (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, 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.

#### 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

# Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 286

## Public Water System ID 1012532

### 2015 Water Quality Report

Inorganic Contaminants							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2011 – 2015	Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0998	0.0658 / 0.0998	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.63	0 / 0.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.21	0.1 / 0.21	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Nitrite (measured as nitrogen) (ppm)	1	1	0.03	0.02 / 0.03	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2011	Beta/photon Emitters (pCi/l)	0	50*	6.2	6.2 / 6.2	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. *EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
2011	Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/l)	0	5	1	1 / 1	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfectant Residuals							
Year	Disinfectant (Units)	MRDLG	MRDL	Annual Average	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloramine Residual (ppm)	4	4	2.31	0.5 / 3.8	No	Disinfection used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant	
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	15.3	13.0 / 15.3	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	
2015	Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	20.9	17.2 / 20.9	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.	

Lead & Copper							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Samples Exceeding AL	Violation	Typical Source	
2013	Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.	
2013	Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.0623	0	No	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 the 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>."

Turbidity					
Year	Contaminant (Units)	Turbidity Limit	Highest Single Measurement	Violation	Typical Source
2015	Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.22	No	Soil runoff.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbiological 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.

### Definitions and Abbreviations

<b>AL</b>	<b>Action Level:</b> The concentration of contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.	<b>MFL</b>	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
<b>MCL</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level:</b> 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.	<b>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</b> 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.	<b>na</b>	not applicable
<b>MRDL</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:</b> 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.	<b>pCi/L</b>	picocuries per liter, (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>MRDLG</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:</b> 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 contaminants.	<b>ppm</b>	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
<b>Avg</b>	<b>Average:</b> Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running average of monthly samples.	<b>ppb</b>	parts per billion or micrograms per liter
<b>Definitions</b>	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.	<b>ppt</b>	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
<b>ppm</b>	<b>parts per million:</b> milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water	<b>ppq</b>	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
<b>ppb</b>	<b>parts per billion:</b> micrograms per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water		