

# Harris County MUD 501 Public Water System ID 1013403 2015 Water Quality Report

The Board of Directors of Harris County MUD 501 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. If you have any difficulties in reading or understanding the report, please call our operator at the number below. **The Board believes that the most important information contained in the report is that the water supply was found to meet the requirements set by the state and federal governments for drinking water.**

Please call the District's operator, Environmental Development Partners, at **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599** if you have any questions regarding this report.

## **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 on the following page. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about 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 501 al telefono 832-467-1599.***

### **Public Participation Opportunities**

The Board typically meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. For information regarding the date, time and location of the meeting call **832-467-1599** or send your comments to:

Harris County MUD 501  
P.O. Box 690928  
Houston, Texas 77269-0928

Data contained in this report was 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 the pages that follow list only those substances that were detected in your drinking water. For additional information about your water quality please contact our District operator at **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599**.

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 3,464,182 gallons of water. Overall, our system accounted for approximately 97% of the water produced during that period. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call the District operator at **832-467-1599**.

## **Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?**

Harris County MUD 501 obtained its water through an interconnect with Harris County MUD 500. The water source for MUD 500 was from groundwater wells that draw water from the Evangeline Aquifer and surface water from the West Harris County Regional Water Authority, directly from the West Harris County Regional Water Authority and through an interconnect with Remington MUD. An aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand and gravel) that is saturated with water. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has completed a Source Water Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources. The report 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 system from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. 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.

## **Water Sources**

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 concern. Therefore, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For additional information about the water quality for this system please call the District operator at **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599**.

## **Protecting the Water You Drink**

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.

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## Regulated Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant (Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range of Detections Min. / Max.	Violations	Source of Contaminant
2015	Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0 / 0.13	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2015	Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.05 / 0.0658	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0 / 0.26	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 / 0.76	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Simazine (ppb)	4	4	0 / 0.08	No	Herbicide runoff.

## Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

Year	Disinfectant	MRDLG	MRDL	Average Level	Range of Detections Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloramine Residual (ppm)	4	4	2.07	0.56 / 4.00	No	Disinfection used to control microbes.

## Lead & Copper

Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number Exceeding Action Level	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2013	Lead (ppb)	0	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.0104	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 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>.

## Disinfection By-Products

Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Annual Max.	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2015	Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	n/a	60	70.3	21.3 / 70.3	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
2015	Trihalomethanes (ppb)	n/a	80	47.1	26.9 / 47.1	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

## Turbidity

Year	Contaminant (Units)	Turbidity Limit	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limit	Violation	Typical Source
2015	Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.28	100%	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>NTU</b>	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
<b>ALG</b>	<b>Action Level Goal:</b> 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	<b>na</b>	not applicable
<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>MFL</b>	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
<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>pCi/L</b>	picocuries per liter, (a measure of radioactivity)
<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>ppm</b>	parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
<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>ppb</b>	parts per billion or micrograms per liter
<b>TT</b>	<b>Treatment Technique:</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.	<b>ppt</b>	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
<b>Avg</b>	<b>Average:</b> Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running average of monthly samples.	<b>ppq</b>	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter