

# NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 29

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID 1012293

### 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Board of Directors of Northwest Harris County MUD 29 is pleased to give you this report about our drinking water based on 2015 test results. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers and was created by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the following pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. **The Board believes that the most important information contained in the report is that the District's 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** 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 a Northwest Harris County MUD 29 al telefono 832-467-1599.**

#### Public Participation Opportunities

The Board meets regularly each month typically at noon on the second Wednesday of the month at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. You may call **832-467-1599** or send your comments to:

Northwest Harris County MUD 29  
Attn: Board of Directors  
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 District operator 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 3,591,752 gallons of water. Overall, our system accounted for approximately 98% of the water produced during that period. If you have any questions about the water loss audit please call our District operator at **832-467-1599**.

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

Northwest Harris County MUD 29 water treatment facilities obtained their water from groundwater sources that draw water from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. 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 some of your sources are susceptible to certain 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. Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in the 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.

#### 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, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the District operator at **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599**.

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

#### Interconnected Water Supplies

While the water for Northwest Harris County MUD 29 is predominantly supplied by wells owned by the District, the District can receive water by interconnect from adjoining water districts during emergency situations and maintenance periods. The water source for these districts is from ground water wells drawing water from the same aquifer as Northwest Harris County MUD 29. If water was provided through the interconnect, water quality information for the supplying district is included in this report. For additional information about the water quality for any of these systems please call the 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 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, 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.

#### 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.

# NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD 29

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### 2015 Water Quality Report

Inorganic Contaminants						
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCL	MCLG	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2014	Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	5.3 / 5.3*	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2014	Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.217 / 0.217	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.65 / 0.65	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	0.01 / 0.01	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

\*While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)							
Year	Disinfectant (Units)	MRDLG	MRDL	Average Level	Range of Detections Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)	4	4	1.39	0.8 / 3.6	No	Disinfection used to control microbes.

Lead and Copper						
Year	Constituent (Units)	Action Level	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2014	Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.609	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>.

Unregulated Contaminants				
Year	Constituent (Units)	Average Level	Range of Detections Min. / Max.	Source of Contaminant
2015	Bromoform (ppb)	1.3	0 / 1.3	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	1.4	1.3 / 1.4	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Regulated Contaminants						
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Range of Detections Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ppb	0	80	2.7 / 2.7	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

### 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>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>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>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>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>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>Avg</b>	<b>Average:</b> Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running average of monthly samples.

### Definitions

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**ppm** parts per million: milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

**ppb** parts per billion: micrograms per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Units

**na** not applicable

**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

**ppt** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**ppq** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter