



**2015**

**Drinking  
Water  
Quality  
Report**



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION

# 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015 City of College Station, Public Water System ID Number: TX0210002

This report provides a summary of the important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by City of College Station Water Services to provide safe drinking water. Water quality test results shown are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Not all contaminants are tested for each year. Some contaminants are tested for every three to five years, so some results in this report date back to 2011. Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports such as this one are required of every public water system to provide information to their water customers as stated in the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. We are proud to report that, once again, the City of College Station provided its customers with safe, high quality drinking water that meets all Federal and State requirements.

## Special Notice for Elderly, Infants, and Immuno-Compromised People:

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; persons 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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Information about Drinking Water Contaminants:

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.

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 (800) 426-4791.

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 but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact **College Station Water Services at 979-764-3660**.

For more information regarding this report contact: Jennifer Nations  
Water Resource Coordinator 979-764-6223 | [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov)

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar.  
Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (979) 764-3435.

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

## City Council Meetings

**Date:** 2nd and 4th Thursday

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** College Station City Hall  
979-764-3510

To learn about future public meetings concerning your drinking water, or to schedule one, please call the City Secretary's Office at **979-764-3510**, or College Station Water Services at **979-764-3660**.

## Information about Drinking Water Sources and Source Water Assessments

College Station relies entirely on groundwater for its drinking water supply, pumping water from 8 deep wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and one well in the Sparta Aquifer. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed an assessment of your source water, which describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. 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 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 Jennifer Nations at [jnations@cstx.gov](mailto:jnations@cstx.gov).

## Regional Cooperation Efforts

The City of College Station and Wellborn Special Utility District (SUD) have entered into an innovative regional cooperation effort in which Wellborn SUD transmits water from its well field in Northern Brazos County to its customers in south College Station using the City of College Station's raw water transmission lines. The well fields for both water systems are in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. Wellborn puts water from its well field into College Station's transmission line at College Station's well field pump station on Sandy Point Road, and takes out water to serve its customers through existing interconnects in College Station. In 2015, this transfer occurred over a period of 7 months, from April to December. For more information about Wellborn SUD's water quality please contact Stephen Cast, General Manager, at 979-690-9799.

## Water Loss Audit Results:

The Texas Legislature requires all retail public water suppliers to file a water loss report annually and notify their customers of the water loss audit results. In the most recent water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the calendar year of January – December 2015, the City of College Station water system lost an estimated 107,229,520 gallons of water through water line breaks and leaks, inaccurate meter readings, theft, and other causes. This represents 2.46% of the water put into the drinking water distribution system. For questions about the water loss audit please call 979-764-6223.



**FLUID  
FACT:**

If you have an automatic irrigation system for your landscape and you're concerned with reducing water use, call **979-764-6223** or visit [cstx.gov/water](http://cstx.gov/water) to sign up for a FREE landscape irrigation checkup.



# 2015 Water Quality Test Results

## HOW TO READ YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT

Year Sampled	Contaminant	Highest Average Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2015	Substance 1	0.05	0.02-0.11	2	4	ppm	N	
2015	Substance 2	2.4	0-3.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	Language in this column is provided by USEPA and may or may not apply to the City of College Station.

The year or years tests were conducted.

Below this level, a contaminant has no known or expected health risks.

Highest amount of a contaminant EPA allows in drinking water.

How a contaminant ends up in College Station drinking water.

The amount from lowest to highest of a contaminant detected in College Station's drinking water.

Parts per billion – one ppb equals to one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons.

Parts per million – one ppm equals to one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons.

## Understanding the Tables:

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

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** 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.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** 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.

**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 contaminants.

**NA:** not applicable.

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

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,812.5 gallons of water.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,812,500 gallons of water

# Water Quality Test Results

## Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year Sampled	Contaminant	Highest Average Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2015	Chlorine	2.33	0.42 - 2.33	2	4	ppm	N	Added to drinking water for disinfection

## Disinfection By-Products

Year Sampled	Contaminant	Highest Average Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2015	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2.18	1.5 - 2.7	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	28.2	14.1 - 38	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

## Coliform Bacteria

Year Sampled	Contaminant	MCLG	Total Coliform MCL	Highest Monthly % Positive Total Coliform Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli MCL	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2015	Coliform Bacteria	0	5% or more of monthly samples are positive	1.83	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

Total coliform bacteria are not disease-causing organisms themselves, but they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. They are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. In 2015, a total of 1,224 samples, at least 101 per month, were collected by Environmental Services personnel and analyzed by the Brazos County Health Department. Out of these 1,224 samples, a total of THREE (3) tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria, and NONE were positive for Fecal Coliform bacteria. All repeat samples tested negative for both Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform bacteria, and College Station continued its record of 100% compliance with the Total Coliform Rule.

## Inorganic Contaminants

Year Sampled	Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2012	Barium	0.0807	0.0807 - 0.0807	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2014	Fluoride	0.48	0.48 - 0.48	4	2	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
2015	Nitrate	0.17	0.17 - 0.17	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

## Lead and Copper Monitoring

Year Sampled	Substance	90th Percentile*	Action Level	Sites Exceeding Action Level	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2015	Lead	1.6 ppb	15 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2015	Copper	0.14 ppm	1.3 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and copper are monitored at the customer's water tap because exposure comes from household plumbing. College Station's water does not exceed the Action Level for Lead or Copper. 90% of College Station tap water samples measured at or below 1.6 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 0.14 parts per million (ppm) for copper, an order of magnitude lower than the Action Level. The Environmental Protection Agency considers the 90th percentile the same as an "average" value for other contaminants.

### Health Information about Lead in Drinking Water

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 (800-426-4791) or at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Year Sampled	Substance	Average Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units
2014	Chlorate	171.75	170 - 173	ppb
2014	Strontium	264.75	262 - 303	ppb
2014	Hexavalent Chromium	0.12	0.11 - 0.13	ppb

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted. Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), every five years the United States Environmental Protection Agency conducts testing for up to 30 unregulated potential drinking water contaminants. A complete list of substances being tested for and a description of the monitoring parameters can be found at the American Water Works Association's "Drink Tap.Org" website at [drinktap.org](http://drinktap.org) and click on *What's In My Water*.



**FLUID  
FACT:**

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## Radioactive Contaminants

Year Sampled	Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2011	Beta/photon emitters*	5.1	5.1 - 5.1	50	0	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
2011	Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2.3	2.3 - 2.3	15	0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

## Secondary and Other Non-Regulated Contaminants

Many constituents such as calcium, sodium, or iron that are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern but may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Year Sampled	Substance	Average Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units
2014	Alkalinity (Bicarbonate)	442	mg/L	No recommendation
2014	Alkalinity (Total)	390	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Calcium	2.82	mg/L	No recommendation
2014	Carbonate	17	mg/L	No recommendation
2014	Chloride	57	mg/L	300
2011	Copper	0.0063	mg/L	1
2014	Diluted Conductance	966	µmhos/cm	No recommendation
2014	Fluoride	0.48	mg/L	2
2011	Manganese	0.0066	mg/L	0.05
2014	pH	8.4	N/A	>7.0
2014	Phenolphthalein Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	14	mg/L	No recommendation
2011	Sodium	193	mg/L	No recommendation
2014	Sulfate	8	mg/L	300
2014	Total Dissolved Solids	544	mg/L	1,000
2011	Total Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	7.04	mg/L	No recommendation

## How Much is a Drop? Understanding Concentration Levels

Many MCLs are set in units of parts per million or parts per billion. Some drinking water contaminants can be detected in amounts as small as parts per quadrillion! How much is that, anyway?

<p><b>Some real-world parts-per-million and parts-per-billion equivalents:</b></p>	<p>\$0.01 in \$10,000 = 1 ppm            1 minute in 2 years = 1 ppm            1 inch in 16 miles = 1 ppm</p>	<p>\$0.01 in \$10,000,000 = 1 ppb            1 second in 32 years = 1 ppb            1 inch in 16,000 miles = 1 ppb</p>
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One part per billion is 1,000 times smaller than one part per million – the difference between \$1 and \$1,000.

## What is College Station's Water Tested For? When, and Why?

This report contains the results of drinking water quality monitoring conducted from January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2015. Why such a long period? College Station's drinking water comes from groundwater sources, and the amounts of some contaminants does not change often, so these are sampled for less frequently. Other substances, for example chlorine which is added for drinking water disinfection, change daily so they are tested for more frequently.

What are we looking for?	How often?	When?	Why do we look for it?	Who collects?	Who tests?
Disinfectant Residual (Chlorine)	Daily	2015	Ground Water Rule	City of College Station	City of College Station
Coliform Bacteria	Monthly	2015	Total Coliform Rule	City of College Station	Brazos Co. Health Dept.
Disinfection By-Products (DBP's)	Quarterly	2015	Disinfection By-Product Rule	TCEQ	TCEQ
Nitrates	Annually	2015	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ
Unregulated Contaminants	Every 2 years	2016	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	TCEQ	TCEQ
Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC's)	Every 3 years	2015	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ
Minerals	Every 3 years	2017	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ
Lead & Copper	Every 3 years	2015	Lead & Copper Rule	City of College Station	Texas Dept. of State Health Svcs.
Metals	Every 6 Years	2017	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ
Radionuclides	Every 6 Years	2017	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)	Every 6 Years	2017	Primary Drinking Water Standard	TCEQ	TCEQ



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
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