Dear Customer:

The City of Port Lavaca is pleased to provide you with this calendar year 2003 Water Quality Report. We take all possible precautions to safeguard your water supply and hope you will be encouraged to learn about the high quality of water provided to you.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires water utilities to issue an annual report to customers, in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report explains where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, and the health risks our water testing programs and treatment are designed to prevent.

We are committed to providing you with information about your water supply because informed consumers are our best allies in supporting improvements needed to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

We are proud to report that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our system and determined that your drinking water, provided by the City of Port Lavaca, through the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's surface water treatment plant, meets or exceeds all federal and state established water-quality standards.

The tables in this report list all substances that were detected in our treated water during calendar year 2003, and the highest levels at which they were detected. The tables also reflect the highest levels allowed by federal regulatory agencies. Please read this information carefully and if you have questions, call the phone numbers listed in this report.

Required Additional Health Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least very 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).

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 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 include:

(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems;

(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste, color and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the state of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Secondary constituents may affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water and What Happens to It?

The City of Port Lavaca receives its water from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). Surface water is diverted from the Guadalupe River, treated at the GBRA surface water treatment plant, and pumped to the City.

Trained operators treat the water by settling and filtering out suspended solids, dirt and other organic particles until the water reaches a crystal-clear quality. A disinfectant compound of chlorine and ammonia is used to destroy any pathogens (germs) present. Fluoride is added to promote dental health. The water is monitored to insure that it meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The treated water is delivered to the City's customers through its distribution system.

Customer Views Welcome

The City of Port Lavaca strongly supports the national primary drinking water regulations compliance process. If you are interested in learning more about the water department, water quality, or participating in the decision-making process, there are a number of opportunities available.

Questions about water quality can be answered by calling our Customer Service Department at 361/552-9793 Ext. 239 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions should be directed to the City Secretary's office at 361/552-9793 Ext 225.

The Port Lavaca City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall and all meetings are open to the public. Our website address is www.portlavaca.org.

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 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 and the Center 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).
What We Found

The following tables contain all of the chemical constituents that have been found in your drinking water. EPA requires water systems to test for more than 90 constituents. The columns marked "Highest Level at Any Sampling Point" show the highest test results during the year. The "Source of Constituent" column shows where this substance usually originates.

**DEFINITIONS:**
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the level of a contaminant 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 health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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.

**Organics**

**Inorganics**

**Haloacetic Acids**

**TABLE I - Tested in GBRA surface water treatment plant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Detected Constituent</th>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Number of Analyses</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>Source of Constituent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Atrazine</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ppb</td>
<td>Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE II - Tested in City of Port Lavaca distribution system at home taps**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Detected</th>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Number of Analyses</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCLG</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>Source of Constituent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Total Coliform</td>
<td>NOT DETECTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trihalomethanes (THM)**

**Turbidity**

**Haloacetic Acids**

**Lead and Copper (Analyzed every 3 years; not sampled in 2003)**

**Coliforms**

Coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because they are easily detected and found in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals. With some exceptions, coliforms are not themselves disease producers, but often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is bacteriologically safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform bacteria (mostly E. coli) are a portion of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals that pass into the environment as feces. Fecal coliform bacteria are often used as indicators of the fecal contamination of a domestic water supply.

**TABLE III - National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance**

This report was prepared with technical assistance from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. Please contact GBRA at (361) 552-9751 or through their website at www.gbra.org. Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at www.waterdata.com.