Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Lead and copper, 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 drinking your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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.

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Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The La Salle WCID #1 receives its water from surface water diverted from the Guadalupe River and treated at the Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Guadalupe-Brazos River Authority (GBRA).

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water systems are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact the GBRA Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant at 361-552-9751.

Trained operators monitor and test the water, including the addition of fluoride and chloramines, to ensure that our water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The treated water is delivered to the utility's ground storage and delivered through its distribution system to you.

What We Found

The following tables list the contaminants that have been found in your drinking water. USEPA requires water systems to test for more than 97 contaminants. The column marked "Highest Level at Any Sampling Point" shows the highest test results during the year. The "Source of Constituent" column shows where this substance usually originates.

DEFINITIONS:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the highest level of the 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 (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

ppm - parts per million, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).

mg/L - parts per billion, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Disinfection Byproducts

Total Organic Carbon

Total organic carbon (TOC) sampled from source water has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Disinfectants are trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

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. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. Turbidity is measured 4 times per day through grab samples and continuously through automatic on-line individual filters turbidity monitors.

Disinfectant Residuals

The following tables list the contaminants that have been found in your drinking water. USEPA requires water systems to test for more than 97 contaminants. The column marked "Highest Level at Any Sampling Point" shows the highest test results during the year.