

City of Luling  
509 E. Crockett  
Luling, Texas 78648

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# WATER QUALITY '12

City of Luling  
EXCELLENCE IN WATER QUALITY

Luling Water Department 830-875-2469

GBRA Water Treatment Plant 830-875-2132

Dear Customer:

The City of Luling is pleased to provide you with this 2012 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 and treatment are designed to prevent.

We are committed to providing you with information about your water supply because informed customers 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 Luling 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, and the highest level 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 numbers listed in this report.



*The City of Luling receives most of its water from the San Marcos River, shown here at the old Zedler Mill and Dam in Luling.*

## Required Additional Health Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA 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 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 (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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

*This report was prepared with technical assistance from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. GBRA will be happy to answer any questions about the Luling Water Treatment Plant or its water quality and treatment process. Please contact us at 830-875-2132 or through our website at [www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org). Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/index.html).*



Main Office: 933 East Court Street ~ Seguin, Texas 78155

*flowing solutions*



## Customer Views Welcome

The City of Luling strongly supports the national primary drinking water regulation 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 830-875-2469 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions should be directed to the City Manager's office at 830-875-2481.

The Luling City Council meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall and all meetings are open to the public.

## En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en Español, favor de llamar al tel. 830-875-2469 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español durante las horas regulares de oficina (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

## 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 such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk for infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines for appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Luling received its water from surface water diverted from the San Marcos River and treated at the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). Wells provide a supplemental supply.

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by TCEQ. This information 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 information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc=>. Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

Trained operators monitor and test the water, including the addition of fluoride and chlorine, to ensure that our water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The treated water is delivered to the city’s water towers and delivered through its distribution system to you. For information on the treatment of your drinking water and water quality protection efforts contact the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant at 830-875-2132.

## 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 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

**ppb** - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L).

**MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfection Level.

### TABLE I - Test results for the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant Source Water

The EPA Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2Rule) requires that water treatment plants monitor the source water (water prior to treatment plant) for Cryptosporidium, turbidity and *E.coli*. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen that may be found in water contaminated with feces. Monitoring results will be used to determine whether additional treatment is required and to refine the relationship established between *E.coli* and Cryptosporidium levels in the source water. Although treatment plant filters remove Cryptosporidium, filters cannot guarantee 100% removal nor can the analysis determine if the organisms are alive and capable of causing cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection causing nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps that may occur after ingestion of contaminated water. Bimonthly sampling of the San Marcos River, the source water for the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant, began in October 2006 and continued until September 2008. The following table summarizes the source water data collected.

Year	Analysis of source water prior to treatment	Number of Analyses	Average	Range of Analyses	Units
2008	Cryptosporidium	18	0.067	0.057 - 0.080	Oocyst per Liter
2008	<i>E.coli</i>	18	39.9*	17 - 100	Most Probable Number
2008	Turbidity	18	17.0	11 - 33	NTU
*Geometric Mean					

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. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Constituent	Average Concentration	Minimum Concentration	Maximum Concentration	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Total Organic Carbon	1.24	0.87	2.24	ppm	Naturally occurring; no health effects directly associated.

### TABLE II - Test results for the GBRA water supply to Luling (Sampled at the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant)

#### Inorganics

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses Performed	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Fluoride	0.75	1	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; runoff from fertilizer use.
2012	Nitrate	1.40	1	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; treated wastewater effluent; erosion of natural deposits.
2008	Barium	0.034	1	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.

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 filter turbidity monitors.

Year	Detected Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Turbidity	0.20	100%	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

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. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Total Coliform	Reported monthly tests found no coliform bacteria.
E. coli	Reported monthly tests found no E. coli bacteria.

### TABLE III - Test results for the GBRA water supply to Luling (Sampled in the Luling Distribution System)

Year	Disinfectant	Average Concentration	Minimum Concentration	Maximum Concentration	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Chloramines	2.90	0.50	5.20	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

#### Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Avg. Measured Concentration	No. of Analyses Performed	Minimum	Maximum	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Total Haloacetic Acids	10.6	2	10.4	10.7	60	0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2012	Total Trihalomethanes	20.2	2	17.4	22.9	80	0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses Performed	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2012	Nitrate	1.51	1	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; treated wastewater effluent; erosion of natural deposits.

#### Lead and Copper at household tap/Analyzed every 3 years

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2010	Lead	3.4	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Copper	0.13	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

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>.