



# 2021 Annual Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1 through December 31, 2021

**PWS ID Number: TX2390001**

**Telephone: 979-337-7400**

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. For more information regarding this report contact: **Gerardo Saldivar, Water Systems Superintendent, at 979-337-7434.**

El propósito de este informe es para brindarle información importante sobre su agua potable y los esfuerzos realizados por nuestro sistema de agua para proporcionar agua potable segura. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al teléfono (979) 337-7520.

The source of drinking water used by the City of Brenham is Surface Water from Lake Somerville in Burleson County.

## **Information about Source Water Assessments**

The TCEQ 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 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 Gerardo Saldivar. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

## **Public Participation Opportunities**

Date: July 22, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: City Hall Conference Room 1A

Phone: 979-337-7400

To learn more about future public meetings concerning your drinking water, or to request one, please call Public Utilities at 979-337-7400.

## **Water Loss Audit Results**

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January through December 2021, our system lost an estimated 70,668,323 gallons of water, which is 7.8% of the total gallons of water treated. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please contact Daniel McCracken at 979-337-7415.

## Sources of Drinking Water

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water 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.

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 Gerardo Saldivar at 956-433-6596.

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 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>

## **SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS, AND IMMUNO-COMPROMISED PERSONS**

*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 provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426- 4791.*

## **Water Quality Test Results**

### **Definitions & Abbreviations**

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

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

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** 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.

**Avg.:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.Coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 or MRDL:** The highest level of 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 or 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 contamination.

**MFL:** million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos).

**mrem:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**na:** not applicable

**NTU:** nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity).

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

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

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

**ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or pictograms per liter (pg/L).

**ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

**Treatment Technique or TT:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## 2021 Regulated Contaminants Detected

### Coliform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Number of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total Number of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample.	0	1 positive monthly sample.	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

### Lead and Copper

Substance	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	7/31/19	1.3	1.3	0.011	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	7/31/19	0	15	0	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

### Total Organic Carbon

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set, unless a TOC violation is noted in the violations section.

### Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.36 NTU	N	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	99%	N	Soil runoff.

## Regulated Contaminants

Substance	Collection Date	Yearly Average	Lowest Single Sample	Highest Single Sample	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants</b>									
Chlorine Dioxide	2021	0.02	0.0	0.4	.8	.8	PPM	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chloramine	2021	2.64	0.07	6.4	4.0	4.0	PPM	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Substance	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorite	2021	0.702	0.0 - 0.702	0.8	1	ppm	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2021	30	11.6 – 47.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2021	67	17.4 - 119	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Asbestos	2021	< 0.197	<0.197 - <0.197	7	7	MFL	N	The dissolution of asbestos-containing minerals and ores as well as from industrial effluents, atmospheric pollution, and A/C pipes in water- distribution systems.
Barium	2021	0.0083	0.083 - 0.083	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2020	0.21	0.21 - 0.21	0.2	0.2	ppm	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	2021	0.7	0.7 - 0.7	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	2021	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite	2013	< 0.05	<0.05 - <0.05	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Beta/photon emitters	2017	6.2	6.2 – 6.2	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man- made deposits.
<b>Secondary and Other Contaminants Not Regulated</b>								
Aluminum	2021	0.173	0.173 - 0.173	0.2	0.2	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element

Substance	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Secondary and Other Contaminants Not Regulated (Cont.)</b>								
Calcium	2021	33.7	33.7 - 33.7	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Chloride	2021	63	63 - 63	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Hardness	2021	118	118 - 118	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
Magnesium	2021	8.19	8.19 - 8.19	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Manganese	2021	0.0036	0.0036 - 0.0036	0.05	0.05	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Nickel	2021	0.0013	0.0013 - 0.0013	NA	NA	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
pH	2021	9.66	6.91 - 9.66	NA	NA	SU	N	Measure of corrosivity of water.
Potassium	2021	7.84	7.84 - 7.84	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Sodium	2021	50.8	50.8 - 50.8	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally occurring element.
Total Alkalinity	2021	85	85 - 85	NA	NA	ppm	N	Naturally soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids	2021	292	292 - 292	NA	NA	ppm	N	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
Zinc	2021	< 0.005	<0.005 - <0.005	5	5	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

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

## Violations

Violations	Date of Violation	Explain violation	Length of violation	Action taken to resolve	Health Effects
<p>Public Notice</p> <p>Boil Water Notices (BWNs) are instituted by Public Water Systems (PWSs) as specified by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.46(q)</p>	<p>February 16, 2021</p>	<p>City of Brenham issued a Boil Water Notice due to low pressure in the distribution system (below 20 pounds per square inch (psi)).</p> <p>Low water pressure within the High-Pressure Plane, during the severe winter storm of 2021 "Winter Storm Uri"</p>	<p>City of Brenham rescinded the BWN on February 23, 2021, after providing the required compliance documentation to the TCEQ which shows that the PWS has met the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water distribution pressures greater than 20 psi are consistently maintained throughout the distribution system.</li> <li>• The distribution system has been flushed, disinfectant residuals are consistently maintained above the minimum regulatory requirements (0.2 mg/L free chlorine or 0.5 mg/L total chlorine) throughout the distribution system.</li> <li>• Microbiological samples marked "special" collected from representative locations throughout the system and analyzed by an accredited lab are found negative for total coliform organisms.</li> </ul>	<p>Collected bacteriological and chlorine residual samples at 7 different sites within the High-Pressure Plane, and results came back negative.</p> <p>The pressure was restored and maintained throughout the distribution system.</p>	<p>None</p>