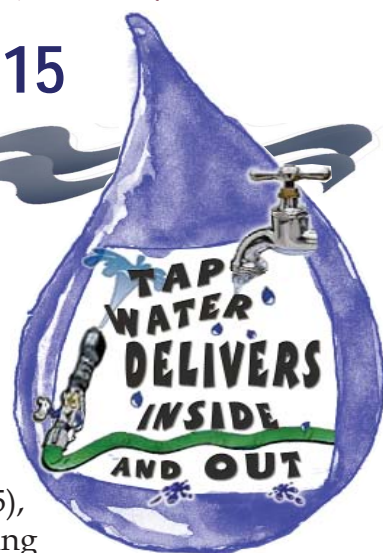


# 2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## NW HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT No. 15

*Yes, your water  
is safe to drink*



### OUR WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL (EPA) AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assessed our system, North West Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 15 (MUD 15), and determined that our water is safe to drink. The analysis was made by using the data in the tables in this report which uses testing results from 2005 through 2009.

Because our water meets all state and federal drinking water health standards for the sampling period, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. MUD 15 system identification number is 101-1600. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

**En Español – Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. 281.376.8802 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.**

### TABLE INFORMATION

The tables contain chemical constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Only five regulated constituents were detected in MUD 15's water, and these were well below the maximum contaminant level allowed in drinking water. The agencies do not require some contaminants to be monitored annually because their concentrations are not expected to vary. This report states the results of the most current water testing from 2005 through 2009.



REGULATED INORGANICS									
Year Tested	Contaminant Detected	Unit of Measure	Average Level*	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Allowed (EPA's MCL)	MCLG	Meets Standards	Possible source of Contaminant
2010	Barium	ppm	0.132	0.132	0.132	2.0	2.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2009	Nitrate	ppm	0.110	0.110	0.110	10.0	10.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2008	Fluoride	ppm	0.830	0.830	0.830	4.0	4.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED INORGANICS									
Year Tested	Contaminant Detected	Unit of Measure	Average Level*	Minimum Level*	Maximum Level*	Allowed (EPA's MCL)	MCLG	Meets Standards	Possible source of Contaminant
2010	Sodium	ppm	103.00	103.00	103.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits

DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS								
Year	Constituent	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	MRDL	MRDLG	Source
2009	Free Chlorine	ppm	1.73	0.50	2.40	4.0	4.0	Disinfectant used to control microbes

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
Year	Constituent	Unit	Average*	Minimum*	Maximum*	MCL	Source
2007	Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	3.900	3.900	3.900	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	25.700	25.700	25.700	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Total Trihalomethanes represents four different constituents. The maximum is the sum of all four.

\* When there is only one sample, the average, minimum, and maximum will be the same number.

### ADDITIONAL TESTING

Additional testing is done daily at the water plant and throughout the community at various locations to ensure that a safe level of disinfectant is in the system. Water samples are sent to an independent state-approved laboratory to verify the absence of harmful bacteria. No such bacteria has been detected in this water system.

### WATER SOURCES

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

### TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

**Contaminant:** The technical term for anything else in water except pure water is "contaminant." Technically, pure, fresh orange juice can be considered water which has been "contaminated" by the oil, orange pulp and flavorings in the orange which make it taste so good.

Obviously, some contaminants aren't good and can actually be hazardous to your health at specific levels. Those are the ones that are tested and measured.

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

**MCL, Max. Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels.

**MCLG, Max. Contaminant Level Goal:** 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.

**MRDL, Max. Residual Disinfectant Level:** 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.

**MRDLG, Max. Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:** 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.

**n/a:** not established at this time

**ppm - Part per million:** One part per million equals one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40 times.

**ppb - Part per billion:** One part per billion equals one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40,000 times.

## WHAT'S IN THE WATER

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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.



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, 1.800.426.4791**, or at the following web site: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Bottled water information may be obtained at: [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp).

**SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS** Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. These constituents are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. The secondary constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT** A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the 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 our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available later this year on Texas Drinking Water Watch at [dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/](http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/). For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us..

## LEAD AND COPPER — TESTED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP (SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM 10 HOMES)

Year Tested	Substance	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile	No. of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Possible Sources of Lead and Copper
2009	Lead	ppb	5.6000	0 of 10	15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
2009	Copper	ppm	0.1550	0 of 10	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits

The TCEQ has determined that MUD 15 should conduct lead and copper tests every 9 years, consequently, the information provided dates back prior to the five year reporting period on this report.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** MUD 15 meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 17707 Old Louetta Road, offices of the operator, Water District Management (WDM). Any last minute cancellations will be posted on the bulletin board near the pool entrance on Westlock Drive.

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE** MUD 15 has been awarded Outstanding Performance Certificates for no violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act bacteriological sampling rule from 2001-2007. The District continues with the same performance record to date.

## WATER EARLY IN THE MORNING TO AVOID LOSING UP TO 60% OF WATER TO EVAPORATION.

The wind is usually calmer and the temperature lower early in the day, so less water is lost to evaporation. Watering late in the evening makes your plants more susceptible to disease.



## USE CHEMICALS SPARINGLY

Pesticides kill insects - all insects, even the good ones.

No one would spread pesticides or fertilize over a body of water, but when you over-apply chemicals the excess washes down the street and eventually into streams and lakes.

Read the label and follow the directions. Choose natural products when possible and protect creeks, lakes and the Gulf — our water.

## WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

MUD 15 obtains its water from three wells, two in neighboring Harris Co. MUD No. 280 (MUD 280) and a well here in the District. The wells draw ground water from the Gulf Coast Aquifers.

MUD 15's second water plant should be complete by the end of the year to assure adequate water quantity and quality into the future.

The District also has interconnect water valves with neighboring HC MUD No. 368 (Pinecrest), MUD 280 (Canyon Gate at Northpointe), and H C MUD No. 281 (MUD 281) (Villages of Northpointe) all of which are governed by the same drinking water regulations. The valves are opened only in the event of an emergency or maintenance.

## HAVE QUESTIONS

If you would like more information about particular health risks or contaminants, you may call the EPA at 1.800.426.4791, or the Harris County Health Department at 713.439.6000. **EPA has answers to many questions at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions).**

The District's Operator, WDM, may also be able to assist you with your questions, 281.376.8802.



## INFORMATION ON LEAD IN 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.

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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## THE GREEN CHOICE — TAP WATER

Clean fresh well water is delivered to your home for just pennies a glass without the fuel consumption of trucking or the waste left behind by plastic bottles.



KIDS OF ALL AGES

Have fun at the Ground Water Adventures

BRAIN TICKLERS

FUN FACTS

WATER EXPERIMENTS at

[www.groundwateradventures.org](http://www.groundwateradventures.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, those that are undergoing treatment with steroids, 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.

EPA/Centers 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791.