

# Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 249

## Public Water System ID 1013135

### 2012 Water Quality Report

Inorganic Contaminants							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2012	Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.109	0.0552 / 0.109	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2009 - 2012	Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.64	0.5 / 0.64	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2011 - 2012	Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	1.23	0.01 / 1.23	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2012	Combined Radium 226/228P (pCi/L)	0	5	1	1 / 1	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

Organic Contaminants							
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Typical Source
2012	Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.49	0.49 / 0.49	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2011	Simazine (ppb)	4	4	0.29	0.29 / 0.29	No	Herbicide runoff.

Turbidity						Typical Source
Year	Contaminant (Units)	Turbidity Limit	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limit		
2012	Turbidity (NTU)	0.3	0.39	99.3%	Soil runoff.	

*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbiological 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.*

Disinfectant Residuals							
Year	Disinfectant (Units)	MRDL	MRDLG	Average Level	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Disinfectant
2012	Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)	4	4	1.28	0.78 / 1.61	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.
2012	Chloramine Residual (ppm)	4	4	1.99	0.5 / 3.9	No	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Disinfection Byproducts						
Year	Contaminant (Units)	MCL	Average Level	Range Min. / Max.	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	3.5	3.5 / 3.5	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

Lead & Copper						
Year	Contaminant (Units)	Action Level	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Samples Exceeding AL	Violation	Typical Source
2010	Lead (ppb)	15	3.1	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3099	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

**Required Additional Health Information for Lead** *"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 the 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>."*

Definitions and Abbreviations	
<b>AL</b>	<b>Action Level:</b> The concentration of contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>ALG</b>	<b>Action Level Goal:</b> 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.
<b>MCL</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level:</b> 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.
<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</b> The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
<b>MRDL</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:</b> The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
<b>MRDLG</b>	<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:</b> The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
<b>TT</b>	<b>Treatment Technique:</b> A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
<b>Avg</b>	<b>Average:</b> Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running average of monthly samples.
<b>Definitions</b> The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation. <b>ppm</b> parts per million; milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water <b>ppb</b> parts per billion; micrograms per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water <b>NTU</b> Nephelometric Turbidity Units <b>na</b> not applicable <b>MFL</b> million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos) <b>pCi/L</b> picocuries per liter, (a measure of radioactivity) <b>ppm</b> parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) <b>ppb</b> parts per billion or micrograms per liter <b>ppt</b> parts per trillion, or nanograms per liters <b>ppq</b> parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter	

# HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT No. 249

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID 1013135

### 2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Board of Directors of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 249 (the "District") is pleased to give you this report about our drinking water based on 2012 test results. The District is required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act to send the report each year. The content of this report is specified by the State of Texas. Please call the District's operator, Environmental Development Partners, ("EDP") at **832-467-1599** if you have any questions regarding this report.

#### **Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal Drinking Water Requirements.**

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") required tests and is presented on the following page. The data in this report includes all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The USEPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants. We hope the information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water.

#### **En Español**

*Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar a Harris County MUD 249 al telefono 832-467-1599.*

#### **Public Participation Opportunities**

The Board meets regularly each month at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at 323 East Louetta Road, Spring, TX 77373. For information regarding the date, time and location of the meeting call **832-467-1599** or send your comments to:

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 249  
P.O. Box 690928  
Houston, Texas 77269-0928

Data contained in this report were collected in 2012 except where noted. The State of Texas allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentration of these substances does not change frequently. Although the Water District samples your water for up to 125 substances we are listing only those substances that were detected in your water. For additional information about your water quality please contact our operator, EDP, at **832-467-1599**.

#### **Where do we get our drinking water?**

The District's water treatment facilities obtained their water from a groundwater well that draws water from the Evangeline Aquifer and surface water from the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. An aquifer is a porous underground formation (such as sand and gravel) that is saturated with water. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 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 detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confident Report. Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in the Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts please call our operator's office at **832-467-1599** Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

#### **All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants**

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health-based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 (800) 426-4791.

#### **Interconnected Water Supplies**

The District can receive water from an adjoining water district during emergency situations and maintenance periods. The adjoining District is Harris County WCID 110. The water sources for this district are ground water wells drawing water from the same aquifer as Harris County MUD 249 and surface water from the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. For additional information about the water quality for these systems, please call **832-467-1599**.

#### **Secondary Constituents**

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents. They are regulated by the State of Texas, not the USEPA. Since secondary constituents are not causes for health concerns they are not required to be reported in this document. However, they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For additional information about the water quality for this system please call **832-467-1599** or toll free at **1-866-467-1599**.

#### **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 persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those 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 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, (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:

- 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.

#### **Protecting the Water You Drink**

The USEPA is an agency of the federal government of the United States charged to protect human health and the environment, by writing and enforcing regulations. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health as public water systems.