

# **EMC MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT 5**

## *2020 Drinking Water Quality Report*

**This report is an annual summary of the quality of your drinking water. It is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is based on the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency required tests.**

### **OUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), has assessed our system and determined that our water is safe to drink. The analysis was made by using the data in the attached tables. As your water meets federal standards set forth by the USEPA, there may not be health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices.

### **En Español**

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

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

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water and surface water sources. The ground water comes from the Gulf Coast Aquifers some 500 to 2,000 feet below ground surface. Surface water is supplied by the North Harris County Regional Water Authority and is treated water from Lake Houston. 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 system is 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 Howard Wilhite at 281-353-9809.

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).  
EPA website: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) or FDA website: [www.nrdc.org/nrdcpro/bw/bwinx](http://www.nrdc.org/nrdcpro/bw/bwinx)

### **Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:**

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or Immuno-compromised 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Contaminants that may be Present in Source Water**

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic system, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater, 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and
- 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, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration Agency regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 h2o innovation.



Public input concerning your water system may be made at regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 100 Houston Texas 77046 You may contact Howard Wilhite, with h<sub>2</sub>O Innovation at 281-353-9809 with any concerns or questions you may have.

### About the Following Table

The following table contains all of the chemical constituents which have been found in your drinking water for the most recent testing performed in accordance with applicable regulations. USEPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents. The constituents detected in your water are listed in the attached table.

### DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**ppm** = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l), one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**ppb** = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (mg/l), one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**pCi/l** = pico curies per liter: Measure of radioactivity.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - 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.

## EMC Municipal Utility District 5 2020 Drinking Water Quality Report

Inorganic Contaminants							
Year	Constituent	Highest Detected Level at Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2020	Nitrate	0.02	0.02-.002	10	0	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Fluoride	0.55	0.54 - 0.55	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Barium	0.174	0.154 - 0.174	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Arsenic*	6.4	4.0 - 6.4	10	10	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Selenium	3.3	3.3 - 3.3	50	50	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.

\*While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Disinfectant Residual							
Year	Constituent	Highest Detected Average	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2020	Chlorine Disinfectant	3.05	0.90 - 3.6	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Unregulated Contaminants**				
Year	Constituent	Average of All Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Units of Measure
2020	Dibromochloromethane	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	ppb

\*\* Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Organic Contaminants**

Year	Constituent	Highest Detected Level at Any Sampling Point	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2020	Total Trihalomethanes	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	60	n/a	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

**Our water is safe to drink.**