

# 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## (Consumer Confidence Report)

for January 1 through December 31, 2020  
City of New Boston (903) 628-5596

### 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.

### Public Participation Opportunities

Date: The New Boston City Council meets the third Tuesday of each month.

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: The council room at the New Boston City Hall,  
301 E. N. Front Street, New Boston, TX 75570

To learn about future public meeting (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us at (903) 628-5596.

### OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

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 (EPA) required tests, and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water.

#### WATER SOURCES

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 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.

#### *En Español*

Este reportado incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (903) 628-5596.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

City of New Boston purchases water from Texarkana Water Utilities (TWU). TWU provides purchased, treated, surface water source from Lake Wright Patman (Bowie County, Texas) and Millwood Lake (Miller County, Arkansas).

## Information About Source Water Assessments

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed a Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources. The report 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 system(s) from which we purchased our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Rick Barton at Texarkana Water Utilities, 903-798-3800.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer at the following URL: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>

This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come in contact with our 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 is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.gov/DWW/>

For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

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 the public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for the contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for the public health. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses 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).

## 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 and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## Definitions

### Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

Unenforceable public health goal; 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 (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 (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 contaminants.

### Treatment Technique or TT

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Action Level (AL)

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 of health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Level Assessment 1:** A Level 1 assessment is 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 Level 2 assessment is a very detail 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.





## LEAD IN HOME PLUMBING

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>.

## TEXAS DRINKING WATER WATCH

Use this searchable database of analytical results and compliance data to learn more about the quality of your drinking water and your public water system's compliance with state and federal regulations. On the web go to:

<http://dww2.tceq.gov/DWW/>

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. Water lawns only in the morning during hotter summer months.
2. Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water, rather than a fine mist, to avoid evaporation.
3. Turn soaker hoses so the holes are on the bottom to avoid evaporation.
4. Water slowly for better absorption, and never water on windy days.
5. Condition the soil with compost before planting grass or flower beds so that water will soak in rather than run off.
6. Fertilize lawns at least twice a year for root stimulation. Grass with a good root system makes better use of less water.
7. Learn to know when grass needs watering. If it has turned a dull gray-green or if footprints remain visible, it is time to water.
8. Do not water too frequently. Too much water can overload the soil so that air cannot get to the roots and can encourage root disease.
9. Do not over-water. Soil can absorb only so much moisture and the rest simply runs off.
10. Operate automatic sprinkler systems only when the demand on the town's water supply is at it's lowest. Set the system to operate between two and six a.m.
11. Do not scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better.
12. Use a watering can or hand water with the hose in small areas of the lawn that need more frequent watering.
13. Learn what types of grass, shrubbery, and plants do best in the area and in which parts of the lawn, and then plant accordingly.
14. Consider decorating areas of the lawn with rocks, gravel, wood chips, or other materials now available that require no water at all.
15. Do not "sweep" walks and driveways with the hose. Use a broom or rake instead.
16. Use a bucket of soapy water and the hose only for rinsing when washing the car.

### Microbiological Contaminants

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.

Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of positive samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0.00%	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Presence	Naturally present in the environment

### 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 system and disinfection process.

Contaminant	Location	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Turbidity	Wright Patman	0.33	100%	≤0.3 in 95% of samples	NTU	Soil runoff
	Millwood	0.29	100%			

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Reporting Agency	Average Level Detected	Range of Detected Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	TCEQ	0.236	0.234 - 0.236	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	TCEQ	0.021	0.011 - 0.031	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
	ADH	0.0146	0.0146 - 0.0146				
Fluoride	TCEQ	0.0146	0.0146 - 0.0146	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Cyanide	TCEQ	0.0367	0.0367 - 0.0367	0.2	0.2	ppm	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories

### Lead & Copper Tap Monitoring

Contaminant	Location	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Lead*	City of New Boston	5.09	1	15	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper		0.0512	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### Disinfectants

Contaminant	Location	Annual Average	Range of Detected Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Chlorine (total)	City of New Boston	2.7	0.7 - 3.8	4	4	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes

### Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant	Location	Highest Locational Running Annual Average	Range of Detected Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethane (TTHM)*	City of New Boston	50	32.3 - 71.9	80	no goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)**	City of New Boston	31	17.2 - 40.9	60	no goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

\*\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the 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 further regulation is warranted. MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) and MCLGs (Maximum Contaminant Level Goals) have not been established for all unregulated contaminants.

Contaminant	Reporting Agency	Range of Detected Level	Avg Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCLG	Source of Contaminant
Chloroform	TCEQ	39.0 - 53.3	46.15	ppb	70	By-products of drinking water disinfection
	ADH	109 - 109	109.00			
Bromodichloromethane	TCEQ	6.78 - 8.75	7.765	ppb	0	
	ADH	8.4 - 8.4	8.40			
Dibromochloromethane	ADH	0.96 - 0.96	0.96	ppb	60	

Acetone	TCEQ	5.84 - 7.28	6.56	ppb	6000	Used in the manufacture of plastic, fibers, cosmetics, photographic film and many other kinds of consumer goods
Methyl ethyl ketone	TCEQ	1.29 - 1.29	1.29	ppb	None	A solvent used in the synthetic rubber industry, in the production of paraffin wax and in household products such as lacquers, varnishes, paint remover and glues

**Unregulated Contaminants - Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4)**

<b>Haloacetic Acid Groups</b>					
Contaminant	Reporting Agency	Range of Detected Level	Avg Level Detected	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (UCMR4)	ADH	17.5 - 53.7	35.20	ppb	By-products of drinking water disinfection
HAA6Br (UCMR4)	ADH	5.6 - 16.5	9.50	ppb	
HAA9 (UCMR4)	ADH	23.6 - 67.1	43.20	ppb	

<b>Metals</b>					
Contaminant	Reporting Agency	Range of Detected Level	Avg Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
Manganese	ADH	0.77 - 28.6	13.70	ppb	Naturally occurring element; commercially available in combination with other elements and minerals; used in steel production, fertilizer, batteries and fireworks; drinking water and wastewater treatment chemical; essential nutrient

The objective of the UCMR program is to collect national occurrence data for suspected drinking water contaminants that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Drinking water occurrence information is used to support future regulatory actions to protect public health. The public will benefit from information about whether unregulated contaminants are present in their drinking water.

**DEFINITIONS**

- ADH:** Arkansas Department of Health
- Avg: Average** - regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on a running annual average of monthly samples.
- 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 Unit (a measurement of turbidity)
- ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
- ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
- ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)
- ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- TCEQ:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- TWU:** Texarkana Water Utilities
- UCMR:** Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule