

# Nueces Water Supply Corporation

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report#

For the Period of January 1 to December 31, 2020

(Consumer Confidence Report – PWS ID Number: TX1780052)

### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

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 providers. 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.

### **Our Drinking Water is Regulated**

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 Carola Serrato, General Manager at (361) 592-1720.

### **Information about your 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 (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 the NWSC business office at (361) 592-1720.

**Nueces WSC is a purchased surface water system. Where do we get our drinking water?**

Our drinking water is obtained from surface water sources. Nueces Water Supply Corporation is supplied by South Texas Water Authority, who purchases treated water from the City of Corpus Christi whose surface water sources are Lake Corpus Christi, Lake Texana, Choke Canyon Reservoir and Colorado River.

**Source Water Assessments**

TCEQ completed a Source Water Assessment for all drinking water systems that own their sources.

This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with the drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The system from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact NWSC General Manager Carola Serrato at (361) 592-1720.

**Water Loss:** In the most recent Water Loss Audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the period of January to December 2020, NWSC lost an estimated 19.6 million gallons of water.

**Definitions & Abbreviations**

**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 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 (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 (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 (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.

**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** – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**ppq** – parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

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

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Nueces Water Supply Corporation 2020 Water Quality Test Results

| Disinfection By-Products   | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG                  | MCL   | Units           | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)  | 2020            | 29                     | 8.7 – 28.7                  | No goal for the total | 60    | ppb             | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)   | 2020            | 75                     | 33.9 – 57.7                 | No goal for the total | 80    | ppb             | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results and TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year. |                 |                        |                             |                       |       |                 |           |  |
| Inorganic Contaminants   | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Individual Samples | MCLG                  | MCL   | Units           | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)   | 2020            | 2                      | 0.24 – 1.64                 | 10                    | 10    | ppm             | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Disinfectant Residual  | Year            | Average Level          | Range of Levels Detected    | MRDL                  | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Violation | Source in Drinking Water   |
| Chloramine   | 2020            | 2.77                   | 0.74 – 4.18                 | 4                     | 4     | ppm             | N         | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

### NWSC – Coliform Bacteria

| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No. of Positive | Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level | Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Violation | Source in Drinking Water              |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 0                              | 1 positive monthly sample                | 1                       | 1   | 0   | N         | Naturally present in the environment. |

### NWSC – Lead and Copper

| Year | Lead & Copper | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | # of Sites Over AL | Unit | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|------|---------------|------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|-----------|---|
| 2018 | Copper        | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.14                            | 0                  | ppm  | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| 2018 | Lead*         | 0    | 15                | 1.8                             | 0                  | ppb  | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.                                   |

\*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>.

## City of Corpus Christi 2020 Water Quality Test Results

### City of Corpus Christi – Inorganic Contaminants

| Constituent | Year | Highest Single Measurement | Range         | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant   |
|-------------|------|----------------------------|---------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| Barium      | 2020 | 0.108                      | 0.104 – 0.108 | 2   | 2    | ppm             | Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits.                                 |
| Chlorite    | 2020 | 0.84                       | 0.12 – 0.84   | 1   | 0.80 | ppm             | By-product of drinking water disinfection.   |
| Fluoride    | 2020 | 0.71                       | 0.59 – 0.71   | 4   | 4    | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Selenium    | 2020 | 4.1                        | 3.6 – 4.1     | 50  | 50   | ppb             | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.                          |

**City of Corpus Christi 2020 Water Quality Test Results – Continued**

| Constituent      | Year | Highest Single Measure | Range  | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contamination           |
|------------------|------|------------------------|--------|------|-------|-----------------|--|
| Chlorine Dioxide | 2020 | 30                     | 0 – 30 | 800  | 800   | ppb             | Water additive used to control microbes. |

| Constituent | Year | Highest Average | Range     | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant   |
|-------------|------|-----------------|-----------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| Cyanide     | 2020 | 143             | 100 – 190 | 200 | 200  | ppb             | Discharge from steel/metal factories, discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories. |

**City of Corpus Christi – Organic Contaminants**

| Constituent | Year | Highest Average | Range      | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant             |
|-------------|------|-----------------|------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| Atrazine    | 2020 | 0.21            | 0.0 - 0.6  | 3   | 3    | ppb             | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops. |
| Metolachlor | 2020 | 0.26            | 0.0 – 0.26 | na  | na   | ppb             | Runoff from herbicide use.               |

**City of Corpus Christi – Turbidity**

| Year/Constituent   | Highest Single Measurement | Lowest % of Samples Meeting Limits | Entry Point Limit (TT) | Single Measurement Limit (TT) | Likely Source of Contaminant |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2020 Plant 1 (NTU) | 0.18                       | 100                                | ≤0.3                   | 1.0                           | Soil runoff.                 |
| 2020 Plant 2 (NTU) | 0.11                       | 100                                | ≤0.3                   | 1.0                           | Soil runoff.                 |

Turbidity has no health effects but can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial 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.

**City of Corpus Christi – Cryptosporidium Monitoring**

| Constituent     | Year | Highest Average | MCLG | Unit of Measure    | Likely Source of Contaminant  |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cryptosporidium | 2019 | 0.01            | 0    | Total (Oo) cysts/L | Human and animal fecal waste. |

Cryptosporidium is of great concern in public water systems that treat surface water for drinking water sources. Resistant to disinfectants, Cryptosporidium can cause gastrointestinal illness in individuals who consume contaminated water. The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) is required by Congress in order to increase protection from microbial contaminants such as Cryptosporidium. Under this rule, water systems must conduct monthly raw water Cryptosporidium sampling over a two year span. The City of Corpus Christi completed sampling in July 2019.

**City of Corpus Christi – Radioactive Contaminants**

| Constituent                  | Year | Highest Average | Range | MCL  | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant            |
|------------------------------|------|-----------------|-------|------|------|-----------------|---|
| Gross Beta Particle Activity | 2020 | 7.0             | na    | 50.0 | 0    | pCi/L           | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. |

**City of Corpus Christi – Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4)**

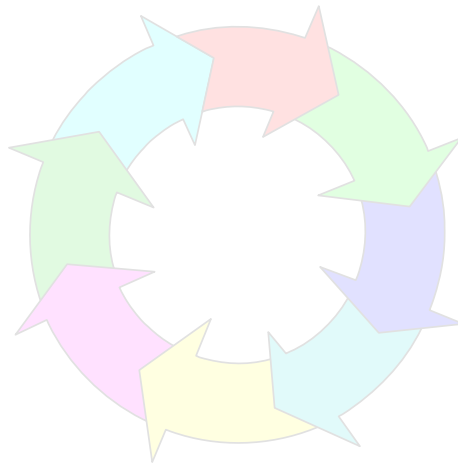
| Constituent | Year | Average | Range     | Unit of Measure | MRL (Minimum Reporting Level) | Likely Source of Contaminant |
|-------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Manganese   | 2018 | 0.69    | 0.0 – 1.3 | ppb             | 0.4                           | Naturally occurring element  |

**City of Corpus Christi – Secondary and Other Constituents Not Associated with Adverse Health Effects**

| Constituent            | Year | Highest Average | Range           | MCL  | Unit of Measure | Likely Source of Contaminant                                      |
|------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|---|
| Aluminum               | 2020 | 0.217           | 0.131 – 0.217   | 0.2  | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.                             |
| Bicarbonate            | 2020 | 178             | 168 – 178       | na   | ppm             | Corrosion of carbonate rockS.                                     |
| Calcium                | 2020 | 71              | 55 – 72         | na   | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.                             |
| Chloride               | 2020 | 140             | 112 – 166       | 300  | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification. |
| Hardness as CaCO3      | 2020 | 234             | 102 – 240       | na   | ppm             | Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.                        |
| Magnesium              | 2020 | 12.4            | 9.68 – 12.4     | na   | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.                             |
| Nickel                 | 2020 | 0.0022          | 0.0017 – 0.0022 | na   | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits.                                      |
| Potassium              | 2020 | 7.77            | 6.92 – 7.77     | na   | ppm             | Abundant naturally occurring element.                             |
| Sodium                 | 2020 | 115             | 56.5 – 115      | na   | ppm             | Erosion of natural deposits; oil field by-product.                |
| Sulfate                | 2020 | 87              | 75 – 97         | 300  | ppm             | Naturally occurring; oil field by-product.                        |
| Total Alkalinity       | 2020 | 150             | 136 – 153       | na   | ppm             | Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.                        |
| Total Dissolved Solids | 2020 | 540             | 488 – 571       | 1000 | ppm             | Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.                    |

Many constituents, such as calcium, sodium, or irons, 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 USEPA. 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.

# **Nueces Water Supply Corporation**



## **2020 Drinking Water Quality Report**

### **Public Participation Opportunity**

**Date:** Monday through Friday  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** South Texas Water Authority's Office, 2302 E. Sage Rd., Kingsville, Texas  
**Phone No:** (361) 592-1720

#### **En Español**

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (361) 592-1720.