



MEMORIAL VILLAGES WATER AUTHORITY

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2004 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

(Consumer Confidence Report)

January 2004 to December 2004

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires most drinking water suppliers in the country to provide a water quality report to their customers. This annual report concerns the quality of water provided by Memorial Villages Water Authority to the residents of Hedwig, Hunters Creek and Piney Point Villages. Questions concerning this report should be directed to our General Manager, Mr. Mike Montgomery, by calling 713-465-8318.

OUR DRINKING WATER MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL (EPA) 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 (EPA) required tests and is presented in this publication. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water. **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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. **The following pages** list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. E.P.A. requires water systems to test up to 97 contaminants.

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 EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondary constituents are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. For information on these constitu-

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** 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 healthcare 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 by calling 1-800-426-4791.

WHERE DOES YOUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

The source of your tap water comes from more than just one location. In 2004, the Water Authority provided over 79% of its treated drinking water from its five (5) water wells. These wells are all located within the Villages and produce water from the Evangeline Aquifer. This type of water source is commonly referred to as *groundwater*. The other source of our drinking water comes from the City of Houston. In August of 1998, the Water Authority began purchasing *blended water*, a combination of *surface water* and *groundwater*, from the City. *Surface water* comes from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and springs. The TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and the results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report. If we receive or purchase water from another system, their susceptibility is not included in this assessment. For more information please call 713-465-8318.

SOURCES OF 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 contaminants resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- 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 agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IS IN YOUR WATER

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest permissible level of a contaminant that is allowed 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 risk to health. MCLG's 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 contamination.

Treatment Technique (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.

pCi/l = Pico curies per liter (a measure of radioactivity); **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units; **ppm** = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l); **ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l); **ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter; **ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter; **MFL** = million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos); **ND** = Not Detected

TABLE I = Information on the *groundwater* supplied by the Water Authority as part of its drinking water supply.

TABLE II = Information on the *blended water* supplied by the Houston to the Water Authority as part of its drinking water supply.

TABLE I - Memorial Villages Water Authority's Groundwater—System I.D. No. 1010146
2004* CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN YOUR DRINKING WATER; NONE WERE ABOVE THE MCL

INORGANICS								
Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of	Source of Constituent
2002	Arsenic	4.967	2.6	8	10*	0*	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards, glass and from electronics production wastes.
<i>* These arsenic values are effective January 23, 2006. Until then, the MCL is 50 ppb and there is currently no MCLG.</i>								
2002	Barium	0.180	0.138	0.264	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries.
2002	Fluoride	0.633	0.2	0.9	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2002	Combined Radium 226 & 228	0.267	0	0.8	5	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Gross alpha	1.400	0	4.2	15	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.

Organic Contaminants NOT TESTED OR REPORTED, OR NOT DETECTED

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level NOT TESTED OR REPORTED

Disinfection By-Products

Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2004	Total Haloacetic Acids	4.000	0	38.8	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2004	Total Trihalomethanes	6.758	0	41.7	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Chloroform	3.000	0	12.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Bromoform	2.067	0	8.1	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Bromodichloromethane	3.317	0	14.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Dibromochloromethane	4.017	0	17.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

LEAD and COPPER

Year	Constituent	The 90th Percentile	No. of Sites Exceeding AL	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Lead	4.4000	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
2003	Copper	0.1050	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

TOTAL COLIFORM:

Year	Constituent	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2004	Total Coliform Bacteria	1	*	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

**Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.*

FECAL COLIFORM: NOT DETECTED

COLIFORM BACTERIA—What are coliforms? 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. Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, E-coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (E.coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material. The table above indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly water samples submitted for testing by Memorial Villages Water Authority last year.

Availability of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Data (UCMR)

We participated in gathering data under the UCMR in order to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If any unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in the tables elsewhere in this report. This data may also be found on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html> or you call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**TABLE I — CONTINUED - Memorial Villages Water Authority's Groundwater—System I.D. No. 1010146
2004* CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN YOUR DRINKING WATER; NONE WERE ABOVE THE MCL**

Secondary and Other Regulated Constituents (No associated adverse health effects)							
Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2002	Bicarbonate	298.000	244	329	N/A	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2002	Calcium	15.230	9.89	25	N/A	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2002	Chloride	49.667	35	63	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2002	Iron	0.081	0.05	0.138	0.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery
2002	Magnesium	4.150	2.68	6.86	N/A	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2002	Manganese	7.333	0	14	50	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2002	pH	7.533	7.4	7.6	N/A	units	Measure of waters corrosivity.
2002	Sodium	111.400	65.2	143	N/A	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2002	Sulfate	10.000	7	16	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct oil field activity.
2002	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	244.333	200	270	N/A	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2002	Total Dissolved Solids	207.000	171	233	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2002	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	55.000	35	92	N/A	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.

LEAD in Drinking Water: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that the lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your kitchen tap for 30 seconds before using the tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791) or by logging on to EPA's web site on drinking water at: (www.epa.gov/safewater/)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMORIAL VILLAGES WATER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETINGS: 1ST Tuesday of the month
LOCATION: 8955 Gaylord Drive, Houston, 77024
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
FOR INFORMATION CALL: 713-465-8318
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: WWW.MVWA.ORG

ARSENIC: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard 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.

NITRATE: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, ask for advice from your health care provider.

The Water Authority conducts more tests on its drinking water than is required by either the TCEQ or the EPA and obtains regular water quality reports from the City on the water they provide to us. In 2004, the City of Houston's drinking water met or exceeded all State and Federal requirements. Over the past 5 years, we have spent more than 4.2 million dollars on our water supply system. These expenditures have included the installation of surface water transmission lines, replacement and upgrading of old water lines, the addition of new fire hydrants and, upgrading components for improved reliability. The Board and employees of the Water Authority take very seriously the trust you have placed in us to insure that your water is safe.

THE WATER AUTHORITY IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER

TABLE II - City of Houston blended water supplied to Memorial Villages Water Authority

Houston's entry point 004, Afton Village Houston's Main System I.D. No. 1010013

2004* CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN YOUR DRINKING WATER; NONE WERE ABOVE THE MCL

INORGANICS

Year	Constituent	Highest Level of any sample	Range of Detection	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2002	Arsenic	3.4	3.4—3.4	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production.
2002	Barium	0.205	0.2050—0.2050	2	2	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries.
2002	Fluoride	0.3	0.3000—0.3000	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2002	Gross beta emitters	10.3	0.0000—10.3000	50	0	pci/l	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
2002	Total Nitrate	0.08	0.00—0.0800	10	10	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks and sewage.
2002	Alpha emitters	16.1	2.00—16.10	15	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
2002	Combined Radium 226 & 228	2.4	2.40—2.40	5	0	pci/l	Erosion of natural deposits.

ORGANICS

NOT TESTED OR REPORTED, OR NOT DETECTED

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

NOT TESTED OR REPORTED, OR NOT DETECTED

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS—ug/l

Year	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2003	Chloroform	3.000	0	12.0	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2003	Bromoform	2.067	0	8.1	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
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2003	Copper	0.1050	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing system; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

*Or latest information available.