

Annual Water Quality Report

For the period of January through December 2023

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 PGMS (our contracted water supply management firm) at 866-643-3472 or visit our website at <https://www.washingtoncountywater.com>.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono 866-643-3472.

Each year, TCEQ requires water utilities to complete a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and distribute it to consumers. On the following pages, you will find the most current CCR for Central Washington County Water Supply Corporation. This report summarizes information that has been collected to comply with Federal and State regulations.

The source of your drinking water supply is groundwater that is delivered from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer by four wells, each with depths of approximately 400' in the Brenham area.

Water utilities, including Central Washington County WSC, treat drinking water to reduce the chance for metals to leach into the water. Central Washington County WSC conducts required testing for drinking water contaminants to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. Tests are performed at the treatment facilities as well as periodic member tap sampling and tests for lead in potential high-risk areas.

If you are interested in attending the public meetings, check the meeting agendas posted on the website under "Notices" at <https://www.washingtoncountywater.com>.

2023 Consumer Confidence Report for Public Water System CENTRAL WASHINGTON COUNTY WSC

This is your water quality report for January 1 to December 31, 2023

For more information regarding this report contact:

CENTRAL WASHINGTON COUNTY WSC provides ground water from **Central Portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer** located in **Washington County, Texas**.

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Definitions and Abbreviations:

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The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Action Level:

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment:

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 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 or 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 or 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 or 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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:

micrograms per liter or parts per billion

ppm:

milligrams per liter or parts per million

Ppq:

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

Ppt:

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

Treatment Technique or TT:

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

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 at (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 system's business office.

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 (800-426-4791).

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>.

Information about Source Water

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:

Lindsey M. Allen, (866) 643-3472.

<u>Lead and Copper</u>	<u>Date Sampled</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>Action Level (AL)</u>	<u>90th Percentile</u>	<u># Sites Over AL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Copper</u>	2023	1.3	1.3	0.034	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Central Washington County WSC 2023 Water Quality Test Results

<u>Disinfection By-Products</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Individual Samples</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)</u>	2023	13	5.4 - 21.2	No goal for the total	60	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 collected at a location over a year

<u>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)</u>	2023	87	63.2 - 105	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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*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

<u>Inorganic Contaminants</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Individual Samples</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Barium</u>	01/31/2022	0.0127	0.0127 - 0.0127	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<u>Fluoride</u>	02/04/2021	0.49	0.36 - 0.49	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
<u>Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]</u>	2023	0.21	0.14 - 0.21	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<u>Selenium</u>	01/31/2022	4	4 - 4	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

<u>Radioactive Contaminants</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Highest Level Detected</u>	<u>Range of Individual Samples</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>MCL</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Likely Source of Contamination</u>
<u>Beta/photon emitters</u>	01/24/2018	14.2	11.2 - 14.2	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

<u>Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium</u>	01/24/2018	4.5	0 - 4.5	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Disinfectant Residual

<u>Disinfectant Residual</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Level</u>	<u>Range of Levels Detected</u>	<u>MRDL</u>	<u>MRDLG</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Violation (Y/N)</u>	<u>Source in Drinking Water</u>
<u>Free Chlorine</u>	2023	1.21	0.39 - 2.41	4	4	mg/L	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

Violations

Lead and Copper Rule*			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
<u>Violation Type</u>	<u>Violation Begin</u>	<u>Violation End</u>	<u>Violation Explanation</u>
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	01/01/2023	07/10/2023	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

Public Notification Rule			
The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g., a boil water emergency).			
<u>Violation Type</u>	<u>Violation Begin</u>	<u>Violation End</u>	<u>Violation Explanation</u>
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	06/22/2023	07/26/2023	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)**			
Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
<u>Violation Type</u>	<u>Violation Begin</u>	<u>Violation End</u>	<u>Violation Explanation</u>
MCL, LRAA	01/01/2023	03/31/2023	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	04/01/2023	06/30/2023	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	07/01/2023	09/30/2023	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2023	12/31/2023	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

*Upon construction of a new well, CWC WSC were obligated to increase the schedule of lead & copper samples from 10 samples every 3 years to 20 samples every 6 months. A letter sent from TCEQ addressing the increased sample frequency made no mention of requiring 20 samples, so only 10 samples were submitted. CWC WSC has since returned to a reduced monitoring schedule, since there are no lead and copper issues in our water system.

**CWC WSC is currently addressing the TTHM issue with a project to install aeration for those customers supplied from our Longpoint Well.