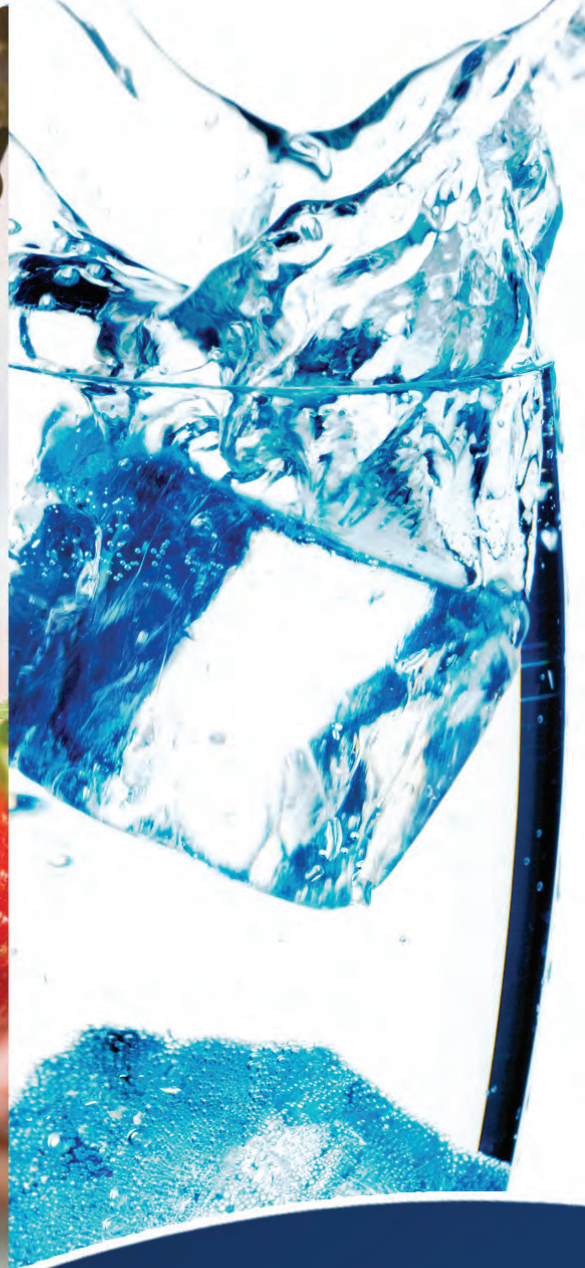


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING
PERFORMED
IN 2014



Presented By
**East Rio Hondo
Water Supply Corporation**

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (956) 748-3633.

PWS ID#: TX0310096/TX0310031/0310152

Our Mission Continues

We are proud to present once again our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2014. Most notably, last year marked the 40th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This rule was created to protect public health by regulating the nation's drinking water supply. We celebrate this milestone as we continue to manage our water system with a mission to deliver the best-quality drinking water. By striving to meet the requirements of the SDWA, we are ensuring a future of healthy, clean drinking water for years to come.

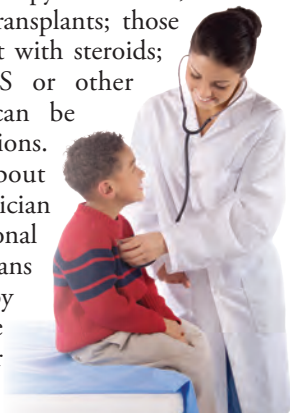
Please let us know if you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Source Water Assessment

The TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) has 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 are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants are found in this consumer confidence report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts, contact the TCEQ Region 15 office at (956) 425-6010.

Important Health Information

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.



Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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 can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 our business office. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second Monday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (ERHWSC) Main Office, 206 Industrial Parkway, Rio Hondo, Texas.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Depending on where you live in the East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (ERHWSC) service area, you receive processed Rio Grande River water from one of three treatment facilities. Since 1982, ERHWSC has operated the 3.2 million gallon per day (MGD) Nelson Road Treatment Plant south of FM 1561. In March of 2009, we put into production our new 8.0 MGD Martha Ann Simpson Treatment Plant. Water is pumped from the Rio Grande River and transferred to both plants by Cameron County Irrigation District Number Two (CCID2). These two plants can deliver water to all locations in our service area, depending upon system demands. Members of the Arroyo City area receive water produced from ERHWSC through an interconnect pipeline located on FM 1847. Members of the west of Combes and North Harlingen areas may receive water from ERHWSC, North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation, or Harlingen Waterworks System (HWWS) via an interconnect pipeline with ERHWSC. Analyses for all four water sources are included in this report. Rio Grande water for the Rio Grande Valley is stored in both Amistad and Falcon reservoirs. These reservoirs fluctuate in level, depending on inflows from other states and from Mexico. Water quality varies depending on from which area of the Rio Grande watershed the inflow originates.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Amanda Ramos at (956) 748-3633.

Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires ERHWSC to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

ERHWSC participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES													
				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System		Arroyo City Water Treatment Plant		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Antimony (ppb)	2011	6	6	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.529	0.529–0.529	NA	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2014	10	NA	NA	NA	2.2	2.2–2.2	2.06 ¹	2.06–2.06 ¹	2.4	2.4–2.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2014	2	2	0.169	0.169–0.169	0.146	0.122–0.146	0.125 ¹	0.125–0.125 ¹	0.0021	0.0021–0.0021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2014	[800]	[800]	150	0.0–150	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2014	1	0.8	1.0	0.04–1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chromium (ppb)	2011	100	100	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.9	1.9–1.9	NA	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2014	200	200	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80	80–80	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Adipate (ppb)	2011	400	400	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.67	2.67–2.67	NA	NA	No	Discharge from chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2014	4	4	0.3	0.3–0.3	0.51	0.39–0.51	0.58 ¹	0.58–0.58 ¹	0.16	0.16–0.16	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2014	60	NA	30.2	<6–30.2	NA	NA	22.4	19–30	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppb)	2014	100	100	3	3–3	NA	NA	3	3–3	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate (ppm)	2014	10	10	0.25	0.04–0.25	0.35	0.05–0.35	0.59	0.59–0.59	0.04	0.04–0.04	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2014	1	1	0.01	ND–0.01	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	2014	10	10	0.17	0.04–0.17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	2014	50	50	3.9	3.9–3.9	NA	NA	7.31 ¹	7.31–7.31 ¹	NA	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 1 (ppb)	2014	80	NA	58.1	<4–58.1	NA	NA	43.3	35.4–50.7	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Thallium (ppb)	2011	2	0.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.195	0.195–0.195	NA	NA	No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2014	TT	NA	2.20	1.51–1.83	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ² (NTU)	2014	TT	NA	0.45	0.04–0.45	0.5	ND–0.5	NA	NA	0.28	0.08–0.28	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2014	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	NA	98.7	NA	99.5	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community									
				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		Arroyo City Water Treatment Plant			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	1.3	0.0104	0/30	0.044 ⁴	0/10 ⁴	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0	5.03	0/30	Less than detection limit ⁴	0/10 ⁴	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY SUBSTANCES													
				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System		Arroyo City Water Treatment Plant		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppb)	2014	200	NA	26.2	26.2–26.2	69.2	43.2–69.2	127 ¹	127–127 ¹	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2014	300	NA	211	211–211	222	163–222	238 ¹	238–238 ¹	264	264–264	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2014	1.0	NA	0.0603	0.0603–0.0603	0.0280	0.0027–0.0280	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppb)	2014	300	NA	64	64–64	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	10–10	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2014	50	NA	7	7–7	NA	NA	10.2 ¹	10.2–10.2 ¹	4.9	4.9–4.9	No	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (Units)	2011	6.5–8.5	NA	7.9	7.9–7.9	NA	NA	7.2	7.2–7.2	8.5	8.5–8.5	No	Naturally occurring
Sulfate (ppm)	2014	300	NA	319 ³	319–319 ³	326 ³	278–326 ³	257 ¹	257–257 ¹	136	136–136	Yes	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2014	1,000	NA	896	896–896	933	725–933	773 ¹	773–773 ¹	674	674–674	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppm)	2014	5	NA	0.0085	0.0085–0.0085	NA	NA	0.00506 ¹	0.00506–0.00506 ¹	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES													
				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System		Arroyo City Water Treatment Plant		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	EXCEEDANCE	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2014	16.5	ND–16.5	NA	NA	11.2	7.7–16.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2014	20.7	ND–20.7	NA	NA	18.8	8.6–18.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2014	10.3	ND–10.3	NA	NA	10.9	2.6–10.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloromethane (ppb)	2011	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9	0.9–0.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2014	19.2	ND–19.2	NA	NA	17.1	11.6–17.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Sodium (ppm)	2014	155	155–155	158	123–158	136 ¹	136–136 ¹	191	191–191	191	191–191	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

OTHER UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES													
				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		Arroyo City Water Treatment Plant		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation					
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE			
Alkalinity (ppm)	2011	NA	NA	63	63–63	55 ⁴	55–55 ⁴	Naturally present in the environment					
Alkalinity Bicarbonate (ppm)	2014	111.0	111.0–111.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	Corrosion of carbonate rock such as limestone					
Calcium (ppm)	2014	91.3	91.3–91.3	74.3 ¹	74.3–74.3 ¹	25.4	25.4–25.4	Naturally present in the environment					
Hardness [Calcium + Magnesium] (ppm)	2011	NA	NA	284	284–284	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment					
Hardness, Total [as CaCO ₃] (ppm)	2014	NA	NA	NA	NA	106	106–106	Naturally present in the environment					
Magnesium (ppm)	2014	28.3	28.3–28.3	24 ¹	24–24 ¹	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment					
Potassium (ppm)	2014	6.69	6.69–6.69	NA	NA	1.63	1.63–1.63	Naturally present in the environment					
Total Alkalinity (ppm)	2014	91	91–91	NA	NA	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment					
Total Hardness (ppm)	2014	345	345–345	NA	NA	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment					

¹ Sampled in 2011.
² Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
³ Sulfate was detected at a level exceeding the established state secondary MCL (SMCL), which was set to protect against unpleasant aesthetic effects such as color, taste, odor, and staining of plumbing fixtures (for example, tubs, sinks, or clothing during laundering). There is no adverse health effects expected with this exceedance.
⁴ Sampled in 2014.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water like taste and odor.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

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