

# 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

published in 2017

## NW HARRIS COUNTY MUD No. 15



### OUR WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL (EPA) AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

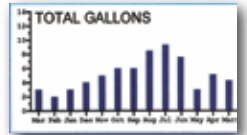
This report is produced to provide information about your water system including the quality of your water, the source of the water, levels of detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assessed our system, North West Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 15 (NWCMUD 15), and determined that our water meets all federal and state requirements for quality. The analysis was made by using the data in the tables in this report which uses testing results from 2012 through 2016.

Because our water meets all state and federal drinking water health standards for the sampling period, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. NWCMUD 15 system identification number is 1011600. Thank you for taking the time to read and learn about the water you drink.

**En Español – Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. 281.376.8802 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.**

### TRACK YOUR WATER USAGE

Your water bill contains helpful information on a 12-month chart. You can also compare your water usage to other residents in the District. In the middle column at the top of your bill is the average of NWCMUD 15's 1,322 homes water usage for the month.



Average monthly usage is 6,262 gals.

**TABLE INFORMATION** The tables contain chemical constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Only seven regulated constituents were detected in NWCMUD 15's water, and these were well below the maximum contaminant level allowed in drinking water. The agencies do not require some contaminants to be monitored annually because their concentrations are not expected to vary. This report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), states the results of the most current water testing from 2012 through 2016.

INORGANICS - REGULATED									
Year Tested	Contaminant Detected	Unit of Measure	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Allowed (EPA's MCL)	MCLG	Meets Standards	Possible source of Contaminant
2016	Barium	ppm	0.168	0.156	0.180	2.0	2.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2016	Benzo(a)pyrene	ppt	10.000	0.000	20.000	200.0	0.0	yes	Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
2014-16	Fluoride	ppm	1.060	0.780	1.330	4.0	4.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2016	Nitrate	ppm	0.105	0.020	0.190	10.0	10.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2015	Combined Radium 226 & 228	pCi/L	0.750	0.000	1.500	5.0	0.0	yes	Decay of natural and man-made deposits

DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS									
Year	Constituent	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	MRDL	MRDLG	Source	
2016	Free Chlorine	ppm	2.19	1.00	2.90	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes	

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS - REGULATED									
Year	Constituent	Unit	Avg*	Min*	Max*	MCL	Disinfectant Byproducts (DBPs) are formed when disinfectants (such as Free Chlorine) reacts with natural organic material in water. The District monitors the water distribution system as required by Stage 2 of the federal Disinfectant Byproduct Rule		
2016	Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	3.20	3.20	3.20	60			
2016	Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	22.90	22.90	22.90	80			

**Total Trihalomethanes represents four and Haloacetic Acids represent five different constituents. The maximum for each is the sum of either the four or the five constituents.**

\* When there is only one sample, the average, minimum, and maximum will be the same number.

**UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS** The District participated in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (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 in this report. This data may also be found on EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod), or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS** Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. These constituents are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. The secondary constituents are not necessarily causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

CONTAMINANTS - UNREGULATED						
Year	Contaminant	Unit	Avg.	Min.	Max.	Source of Contaminant
2016	Bromodichloromethane	ppb	1.60	1.40	1.80	The Unregulated Contaminants are a by-product of the drinking water disinfection.
2016	Bromoform	ppb	1.85	0.00	3.70	
2016	Chloroform	ppb	0.50	0.00	1.00	
2016	Dibromochloromethane	ppb	2.80	1.60	4.00	

SECONDARY CONSTITUENT - UNREGULATED						
Year	Contaminant	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Possible Source
2016	Sodium	ppm	113.70	37.40	190.00	no standard set Erosion of natural deposits

### TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

**Contaminant:** The technical term for anything else in water except pure water is "contaminant." Technically, pure, fresh orange juice can be considered water which has been "contaminated" by the oil, orange pulp and flavorings in the orange which make it taste so good. Obviously, some contaminants aren't good and can actually be hazardous to your health at specific levels. Those are the ones that are tested and measured.

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

**MCL, Max. Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels.

**MCLG, Max. Contaminant Level Goal:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL, Max. Residual Disinfectant Level:** 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.

**MRDLG, Max. 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 contamination.

n/a: not established at this time

**ppb - Part per billion:** One ppb equals one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40,000 times.

**ppm - Part per million:** One ppm equals one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40 times.

**ppt - Part per trillion** or nanograms per liter (ng/L).

**KEEP YOUR CLEANOUT COVERED!** Uncapped or broken sewer cleanout caps allow water and other debris to make its way to our Wastewater Treatment Plant through sewer service lines. Allowing this puts a significant strain on the operations at the wastewater plant.

The cleanout pipe and cover are usually made of PVC, and are located within a few feet of your home.



**WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM** NWHCMUD 15 obtains its water from four wells, two here in the District and two in neighboring Harris Co. MUD No. 280. The wells draw ground water from the Gulf Coast Aquifers. NWHCMUD 15's second water plant was placed into service in March of 2011. This water plant was constructed to assure adequate water quantity and quality into the future.

The District also has interconnect water valves with neighboring HC MUD No. 368 (Pinecrest), MUD 280 (Canyon Gate at Northpointe), and HC MUD No. 281 (MUD 281) (Villages of Northpointe) all of which are governed by the same drinking water regulations. The valves are opened only in the event of an emergency or maintenance. For information on MUD 368, 280, and 281 water quality, you may contact WDM at 281.376.8802.

**WHAT'S IN THE WATER** The EPA prescribes regulations that 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.

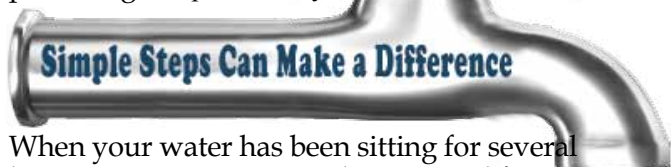
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791, or at the following web site: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

Bottled water information may be obtained at: [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp).

**ADDITIONAL TESTING** Additional testing is done daily at the water plant and throughout the community at various locations to ensure that a safe level of disinfectant is in the system. Water samples are sent to an independent state approved laboratory to verify the absence of harmful bacteria. No such bacteria has been detected in this water system.

**INFORMATION ON LEAD IN WATER**

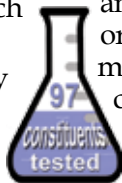
NWHCMUD 15 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home or business.



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 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.

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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



**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 substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT** The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report.

For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Water District Management at 281-376-8802.

LEAD AND COPPER – TESTED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP (SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM 10 HOMES)						
Year Tested	Substance	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile	No. of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Possible Sources of Lead and Copper
2015	Lead	ppb	1.500	0 of 10	15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
2015	Copper	ppm	0.180	0 of 10	1.3	

**RUNNING TOILETS WASTE WATER AND MONEY**

The flapper is responsible for most leaks. Over time it warps and doesn't seal as well. Water pressure from the tank creates a slow leak in any of the tiny gaps.



**1st** - put a couple of drops of food coloring in the tank and leave it for an hour or two. If the bowl water changes color the flapper needs to be replaced.

**2nd** - turn the water off at the valve below the tank.

**3rd** - purchase a flapper that is similar to the current one and install it.



**TRASH YOUR UNWANTED MEDS**

Unwanted medications go in the trash - NOT the toilet. Wrap or bag with other trash to secure.

Medications in the toilet will eventually go into streams and lakes and can harm fish and wildlife.



**Public Notification Rule Violation**

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).

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Public Notice Rule linked to violation	3/11/2012	2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

**NO GREASE DOWN THE SINK OR TOILET**

Fats, oils and grease stick to the inner walls of sewer pipes and reduce the diameter of the pipes over time causing clogged sewer pipes and sewage spills. Keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewer system and dispose of them in your trash.



Fats, oils, and grease, and other byproducts of cooking come from meat, lard, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces, and dairy products.



- Use a timer when watering so you don't overwater.
- Water early in the morning to avoid losing up to 60 % of water to evaporation.
- Mow high to shade roots and conserve water.
- Adjust your irrigation system with the seasons and weather. Water less or not at all when it is cool and /or rainy.
- Use chemicals sparingly. Read the label and follow the directions. Choose natural products when possible.
- By saving water, you will reduce your water bill and the expenses of your water district.

**HAVE QUESTIONS**

More information about particular health risks or contaminants may be available at:

- ➔ EPA [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/frequentquestions) 1.800.426.4791
- ➔ Harris County Health Department 713.439.6000
- ➔ Water District Management (WDM), the Operator 281.376.8802

This Report is also available online at [www.wdmtexas.com](http://www.wdmtexas.com).



No cost option for your convenience.

[www.eonlinebill.com/bapp/wdm/indexl](http://www.eonlinebill.com/bapp/wdm/indexl)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NWHCMUD 15 meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 17707 Old Louetta Road, Houston, TX, 77070, the offices of the operator, Water District Management (WDM).

Any last minute cancellations will be posted on the bulletin board near the pool entrance on Westlock Drive.

**SPECIAL NOTICE FOR THE ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, PEOPLE WITH IMMUNE PROBLEMS**

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.