



City of Rowlett

Annual  
Drinking  
Water  
Quality  
Report

2015

## SUPERIOR WATER SERVICE

This brochure has been prepared to provide you with information about your drinking water. As a water consumer in the City of Rowlett, you enjoy "superior" water every time you turn on the tap. "Superior" is the state's highest water quality designation, given to the City of Rowlett for excellence in meeting water quality criteria. Our Utility Operations team takes special pride in maintaining this prestigious designation. Responsible for the city's water and wastewater infrastructure, the team's highest priority is to provide safe and reliable drinking water. Inside, you'll find the laboratory test results for our water as well as other beneficial information. We value your continued confidence in us to provide you with the very best drinking water.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Required language for ALL community public water supplies: "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." Public Participation Opportunities. To learn about future public meetings, concerning your drinking water, or to request a schedule please call us at 972-412-6287 or visit Rowlett.com.

## OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

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 the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

## Source 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 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 waste-

water

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.

## En Español

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (972) 412-6135 (Denise Gomez) - para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

## Where do we get our drinking water?

The source of drinking water used by CITY OF ROWLETT is Purchased SURFACE Water. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessment and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

## 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## 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 the EPA. 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.

## About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

## Rowlett Distribution Samples Taken Last Year

Bacteriological Scheduled	720
Bacteriological Construction	74
Trihalomethane Samples	32
Haloacetic Acid Samples	32
Copper and Lead	30

### Inorganic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Barium	0.039	0.055	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2015	Fluoride	0.25	0.86	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2015	Nitrate	0.05	1.79	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Gross beta emitters	4.4	4.4	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

### Organic Contaminants

Year or Range	Contaminant	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Atrazine	0.13	0.19	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2015	Simazine	0.0	0.0	4	4	ppb	

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Disinfectant
2015	Chloramine Residual	2.29	0.5	4.2	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.
2015	Chlorine Dioxide	0	0	0.03	.8	.8	ppm	
2015	Chlorite	0.03	0	0.33	1.0	N/A	ppm	Disinfectant

### Disinfection Byproducts

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Haloacetic Acids	22.26	3.7	28	60	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Total Trihalomethanes	38.42	25.8	49.4	80	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

## Unregulated Contaminants

Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection byproducts. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Chloroform	13.525	3.9	23.5	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromoform	2.59	<1	5.5	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Bromodichloromethane	14.18	9.66	20.5	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2015	Dibromochloromethane	8.35	4.49	12	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

## Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Lead	6.86	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2015	Copper	0.00147	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

### Required Additional Health Information for Lead

"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 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>."

## Turbidity

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity 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.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Turbidity	.65	99.0%	1	NTU	Soil runoff.

## Total Coliform

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.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2015	Total Coliform Bacteria	1.59	*	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

\* Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples.

Fecal Coliform REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated (no associated adverse health effects) - Available upon request.

## ABBREVIATIONS

NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units

MFL - million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

pCi/L - picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

ppt - parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter ppq -parts per quadrillion,

or picograms per liter

ppq - parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

## For More Information:

Please let us know if you need more information or extra copies.

For questions about the quality of your drinking water or about this report, please call us.

We're here to assist you.

Rowlett Utility Billing (Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Monday – Friday) 972-412-6105

Rowlett Public Works Department (Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Monday – Friday) 972-412-6287

or visit us online at [www.rowlett.com](http://www.rowlett.com).

For your Information: The City of Rowlett contracts with the City of Garland for its wastewater solid treatment. If problems occur on odor, blockages or from rainwater entering the collection (sewer) system, please call the Public Works Utilities Department at 972-412-6287.

## DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest permissible level of a contaminant 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 health risk. 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 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.