

This report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the U.S. EPA, Safe Drinking Water Act Consumer Confidence Report Rule. The purpose of the report is for the City of Hutchinson, as the owner and operator of the Public Water Supply System, to keep you the consumer informed of the safety and quality of your drinking water.

If you are a business or organization that provides city water to your employees, students, tenants, etc., please post or provide a copy of this report for their viewing. Feel free to copy the report as needed. Additional copies may be obtained at the City of Hutchinson, Utility Billing & Customer Service Office, City Hall, 125 E. Avenue B or downloaded at www.hutchgov.com.

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of water we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. Water provided by the City of Hutchinson is tested for a wide range of drinking water contaminants at regular intervals. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year. During our most recent compliance monitoring, eleven regulated contaminants were detected. None of the eleven detected contaminants were found at levels which violated drinking water standards.

In May 2009, the City of Hutchinson began treating and distributing your drinking water through the Hutchinson Water Treatment Center. The Hutchinson Water Treatment Center is a reverse osmosis treatment plant which was designed to remove contaminants from the source water and improve the quality of water for its consumers. The Equus Beds Groundwater Aquifer is the source of water for the treatment plant. This aquifer has been shown to be susceptible to contamination due to its geological makeup and high recharge capability. The City has seven (7) municipal water wells located within the urban environment, nine (9) municipal water wells located outside the City in the rural agricultural environment, and four (4) remediation wells located in the 4th & Carey Remediation Site. Source water is treated to remove contaminants, blended with municipal well water, and disinfected with chlorine to protect you against microbial contaminants. An assessment of our source water has been completed. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment for each public water supply. For the results of the assessment, please visit www.kdheks.gov/nps/swap/SWreports.html.

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 land and 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 it is treated:

- *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 stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- *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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 health care providers. EPA/CDC (Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

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 supply systems. We provide water in accordance to these EPA regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

At all times, we are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are made continually to improve their water systems. The Hutchinson City Council is the governing body for the Hutchinson Public Water Supply Utility. Discussions and decisions concerning the water utility take place at their regularly scheduled meetings which are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall. Meeting agendas and live and taped broadcasts of the meetings are televised on cable channel 7.

For more information please contact Don Koci, Water Treatment Systems Superintendent, at 694-1900.

Table of Contaminant Detections

Primary	Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Viol	Typical Source
Barium	2010	0.043	0.043	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge from metal refineries
Chromium	2010	1.0	1.0	ppb	100	100	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills
Fluoride	2010	0.27	0.27	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	2011	1.2	1.2	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use
Selenium	2010	3.2	3.2	ppb	50	50	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Coliform (TCR)	One sample returned with a positive result in Calendar Year 2011	For systems that collect 40 or 50 samples per month; No more than 5% positive monthly samples	0	Naturally present in the environment

Disinfection Byproducts	Date	Result	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Viol.	Typical Source
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2011	31	ppb	80	0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2011	11	ppb	60	0	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	Result*	Range	Unit	AL	Sites over AL	Viol.	Typical Source
Lead	2011	3.8	<1.0 – 15	ppb	15	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper, Free	2011	0.0038	0.013 – 2.4	ppm	1.3	2	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

* This is the 90th percentile test concentration or the 27th highest sample of the 30 samples taken.

Radionuclides	Date	High	Detect. Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Viol.	Typical Source
Gross Alpha, Incl. Radon & Uranium	2009	7	7	pCi/L	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary	Date	High	Detection Range	Unit	SMCL	Viol.	Typical Source
Alkalinity, Total	2011	173	172 -- 173	ppm	300	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium	2011	54	54	ppm	200	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride	2010	45	45	ppm	250	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Conductivity	2011	680	680	µmhos/L	1500	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Hardness, Total	2010	120	120	ppm	400	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Magnesium	2010	6.9	6.9	ppm	150	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	2010	0.0012	0.0012	ppm	0.05	No	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	2011	7.6	7.4 – 7.6	s.u.	6.5 – 8.5	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Potassium	2010	1.3	1.3	ppm	100	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Silica	2010	8.7	8.7	ppm	50	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	2010	46	46	ppm	100	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Solids, Total Dissolved	2010	260	260	ppm	500	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	2010	43	43	ppm	250	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Terms and abbreviations used in the table:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the “goal” is 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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** the “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using best available treatment technology.
- **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL
- **Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking water
- **Non-Detects (nd):** lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present
- **Parts per Million (ppm):** or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- **Parts per Billion (ppb):** or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- **Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** a measure of the radioactivity in water
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Water Quality Data

Primary contaminants have legally enforceable standards to protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. Secondary contaminants are generally water quality based guidelines used for aesthetic purposes (taste, odor, or color) and are not enforceable standards. The table lists all primary and secondary drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent compliance sampling performed through December 2011. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily mean that the water poses a health risk. The City of Hutchinson is currently on a reduced sampling schedule for most primary and secondary contaminants. Monitoring for certain contaminants at a frequency of less than once per year is allowed, because the concentration of these contaminants is not expected to vary significantly from year to year. **The bottom line is that the water provided to you is safe.**

Other Water Quality Information

About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider. The highest level of nitrate in our water based on 2011 testing was 1.2 ppm.

About 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. Your water system 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>.

Microbiological Quality

Our water system tested a minimum of 40 or 50 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

2012 Water Quality Report



**“Pursuing Excellence in
Public Service”**

Water

**Consume It, Conserve It,
Protect It**

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Utility Billing & Customer Service

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Information About This Report

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