Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum. The ERHWSC Board of Directors typically meet the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (ERHWSC) main office at 206 Industrial Parkway, Rio Hondo, TX.

For More Information

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

En Español

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

East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation
206 Industrial Pkwy
Rio Hondo, TX 78583

PWS ID#: TX0310096 / TX0310031 / TX0310152

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

PWS ID#: TX0310096 / TX0310031 / TX0310152

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Over the years we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

Water Sources

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:

- 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.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Depending on where you live in the East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (ERHWSC) service area, you may receive processed Rio Grande River water from one of the two Surface Water Treatment plants operated by ERHWSC. ERHWSC has operated the 3.2-million-gallon-per-day (MGD) Nelson Rd. Water Treatment Plant since 1982 and began operating the 8.0 MGD Martha Ann Simpson Surface Water Treatment Plant on FM 510 in 2009. Raw (untreated) water is pumped from the Rio Grande River by Cameron County Irrigation District. #2 to both of the surface water treatment facilities. After treatment, both of the plants have the capability to deliver potable water to most locations in the ERHWSC service area. Members of the Arroyo City area receive water produced by ERHWSC through an interconnecting pipeline located on FM 1847. Members in the north and northwest areas of the system may receive water from the North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation (NCRWSC) Reverse Osmosis Groundwater Plant, or from Harlingen Waterworks System (HWWS) via an interconnect pipeline and pump station with ERHWSC. Members from the southwest area may receive water from Olmito Water Supply Corporation (OWSC) via an interconnecting pipeline. Analyses for all five water sources are included in this report. Rio Grande River water for the Rio Grande Valley is stored in the both Amistad and Falcon reservoirs. These reservoirs fluctuate in level, depending on inflows from other states and from Mexico. Water quality varies depending on which area of the Rio Grande watershed the flow originates from.

Cryptosporidium and Drinking Water

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).

** In 2017 East Rio Hondo WSC began operating an Ultra-Violet Disinfection System at the Martha A. Simpson Water Treatment Plant on FM 510 that is capable of neutralizing Cryptosporidium. This system adds an extra layer of disinfection to the traditional treatment process to better safeguard our customers.*

Lead and Drinking Water

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 the 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

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, 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.

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.

Secondary Constituents

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 will be found in this consumer confidence report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts, contact TCEQ Region 15 office at (956) 425-6010.

ERHWSC is required by the Texas Water Development Board to conduct an Annual Water Loss Audit. During 2020, ERHWSC reported an annual water loss of 11.5% or 101,797,411 gallons of total water produced. Water loss originates from water theft, water line breaks and leakage, as well as from flushing mains.

2020 Testing Results

PWS ID#: TX0310096 / TX0310031 / TX0310152

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water ERHWSC delivers must meet specific health standards. The sample results listed on this report reflect only the substances that were at a detectable level. A full list of all constituents that were sampled are available on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Drinking Water Watch website located at https://dww2.tceq.gov/DWW/. Our goal is always to produce safe water at or below TCEQ and U.S EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less 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.

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month, and the system met all TOC removal requirements set.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's UCMR4, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Emergency/Supplemental Water Sources			
Water Source	**Length of Time Used**	**Explanation of Use**	**Contact**
Harlingen Water Works System	365 Days	Supplements Distribution System	HWWS (956) 440-6565
Olmito Water Supply Corporation	365 Days	Supplements Distribution System	OWSC (956) 350-4099
North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation	365 Days	Supplements Distribution System	ERHWS (956) 748-3633
East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation	365 Days	Wholesale Provider for Arroyo City	ERHWS (956) 748-3633

Regulated Substances				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		East Rio Hondo WSC - Arroyo City		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation		Olmito Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System			
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	Amount Detected	Range Low–High	Violation	Typical Source
Arsenic (ppb)	2020	10	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0024	0.0024-0.0024	NA	NA	0.002	0.000-0.002	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2020	2	2	0.107	0.107-0.107	NA	NA	0.0017	0.0017-0.0017	0.102	0.102-0.102	0.0959	0.0866-0.0959	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorite (ppm)	2020	1	0.8	0.87	0.04-0.87	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Cyanide (ppb)	2020	200	200	150	150-150	NA	NA	0.14	0.14-0.14	NA	NA	140	120-140	No	Discharge from steel/metal factories; Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (ppb)	2017	6	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.92	0.92-0.92	NA	NA	No	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Fluoride (ppm)	2020	4	4	0.46	0.46-0.46	NA	NA	0.18	0.18-0.18	0.64	0.64-0.64	0.61	0.60-0.61	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2018	50	NA	6.8	6.8-6.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7 [1]	5.2-7.0 [1]	No	Naturally occurring
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5s] (ppb)	2020	60	NA	16.10	2.0-16.10	14.9	7.8-14.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2020	10	10	0.79	<0.05-0.79	0.64	0.64-0.64	0.1	0.1-0.1	0.52	0.52-0.52	0.11	0.0-0.11	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.36	<0.05-0.36	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium (ppb)	2020	50	50	0.003	0.003-0.003	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8	0-3.8	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2020	80	NA	39.6	4-39.6	38.6	14.7-38.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (ppm)	2020	TT	NA	1.49	1.40-1.49			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	2020	TT	NA	0.55	0.16-0.55	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4	0.18-0.4	NA	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2020	TT=95% of samples meet limit	NA	0.55 [2]	96%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3	100%	No	Soil runoff
Uranium (ppb)	2017	30	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.3	1.2-2.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Xylenes (ppm)	2019	10	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.1	1.1-1.1	NA	NA	No	Discharge from petroleum factories;Discharge from chemical factories

Secondary Substances				East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		East Rio Hondo WSC - Arroyo City		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation		Olmito Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System			
Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	SCL	MCLG	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	Violation	Typical Source
Aluminum (ppb)	2020	200	NA	0.117	0.117-0.117	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0799	0.0799-0.0799	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	2020	300	NA	164	164-164	NA	NA	260	260-260	197	197-197	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.0	NA	0.102	0.002-0.102	NA	NA	0.0247 [1]	0.0247-0.0247 [1]	0.571	0.0647-0.571	NA	NA	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Iron (ppm)	2020	300	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.012	0.012-0.012	0.021 [3]	0.021-0.021 [3]	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2020	50	NA	0.0011	0.0011-0.0011	NA	NA	0.0053	0.0053-0.0053	0.0116	0.0116-0.0116	NA	NA	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	2020	300	NA	323	323-323	NA	NA	105	105-105	326	326-326	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes
Texas Copper (ppm)	2020	NA	NA	0.0125	0.0125-0.0125	NA	NA	0.0048	0.0048-0.0048	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids [TDS] (ppm)	2020	1000	NA	859	859-859	NA	NA	654	654-654	903	903-903	NA	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

[1] Tested in 2017 [2] Highest Single Measurement [3] Tested in 2018

Unregulated Substances		East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		East Rio Hondo WSC - Arroyo City		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation		Olmito Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System		
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	Typical Source
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2020	6.4	<1.0-6.4	6.6	2.6-6.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromoform (ppb)	2020	22.1	<1.0-22.1	22.8	<1.0-22.8	NA	NA	15.6	4-15.6	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloroform (ppb)	2020	2.4	<1.0-2.4	12.1	1.9-12.1	NA	NA	16.2	2.8-16.2	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	2020	10.9	<1.0-2.4	11.1	<1.0-11.1	NA	NA	27.5	12-27.5	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nickel (ppm)	2020	0.0023	0.0023-0.0023	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0023	0.0023-0.0023	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment.
Sodium (ppm)	2020	161	161-161	NA	NA	208	208-208	171	171-171	NA	NA	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits

Copper and Lead			East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation			East Rio Hondo WSC - Arroyo City				
Substance (Unit of Measure)	AL	MCLG	Year Sampled	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL Total Sites	Year Sampled	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	Sites Above AL Total Sites	Violation	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	2019	0.047	0/30	2020	0.03	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2019	0.0005	0/30	2020	0.0006	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community										

Definitions:

- AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ALG (Action Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- 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.
- MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.
- MCLG (Maximum 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 (Maximum 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 (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 contamination.
- RUL (Recommended Upper Limit): RULs are established to regulate the aesthetics of drinking water (i.e. taste and odor).
- TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Abbreviations:

- NA – Not applicable.
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- 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 (µg/L).
- ppt – Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.
- ppq – Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.

Unregulated and Other Substances		East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation		East Rio Hondo WSC - Arroyo City		North Cameron Regional Water Supply Corporation		Olmito Water Supply Corporation		Harlingen Water Works System		
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	Typical Source
Alkalinity Bicarbonate (ppm)	2020	135	135-135	NA	NA	64	64-64	105	105-105	NA	NA	Corrosion of carbonate such as limestone
Alkalinity Total (ppm)	2020	111	111-111	NA	NA	69	69-69	86	86-86	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	7.2	<1.0-7.2	7.2	3.5-7.2	NA	NA	17.3	7.9-17.3	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Calcium (ppm)	2020	74.3	74.3-74.3	NA	NA	22.2	22.2-22.2	72.5	72.5-72.5	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	13.1	2.0-13.1	11.3	4.2-11.3	NA	NA	14.3	8.8-14.3	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	4.9	<1.0-4.9	4.6	1.7-4.6	NA	NA	16	5.3-16	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Hardness, Total [as CACO3] (ppm)	2020	288	288-288	NA	NA	91.5	91.5-91.5	287	287-287	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Hexadecanoic Acid (ppb)	2019	2.7	2.7-2.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Magnesium (ppm)	2020	24.8	24.8-24.8	NA	NA	8.75	8.75-8.75	25.8	25.8-25.8	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Octadecanoic Acid (ppb)	2016	3.7	3.7-3.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Potassium (ppm)	2020	6.42	6.42-6.42	NA	NA	1.71	1.71-1.71	6.56	6.56-6.56	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Tetradecanoic Acid (ppb)	2018	5.3	5.3-5.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Naturally occurring
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	1.1	<1.0-1.1	1.1	<1.0-1.1	NA	NA	10.1	1.1-10.1	NA	NA	By-product of drinking water disinfection

[1] Tested in 2017 [2] Highest Single Measurement [3] Tested in 2018