

The Water We Drink

SOUTH TOLEDO BEND WATER DISTRICT

Public Water Supply ID # LA1085055

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2012. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.) Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the drinking quality of your water. Our water source is listed below:

Source Name	Source Water Type	Source Water Body Name
South Toledo Bend W.S.	Surface Water	Toledo Bend Reservoir

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 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; this may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants – such as salts and metals, this 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 – This 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.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system has a susceptibility rating of 'HIGH'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office.

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 Systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact LARRY GUIDRY, MANAGER, at 318-586-9836, or visit our web page, www.toledo-bend.net/stbwd.

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. SOUTH TOLEDO BEND WATER DISTRICT 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>.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st - December 31st, 2012. Drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million correspond to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit- (NTU) – nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

Treatment Technique - (TT) - a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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 the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (MCLG) – the "Goal" (MCLG) 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 Residual Disinfectant Level-(MRDL) – 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.

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.

During the period covered by this report we had the below noted violations of drinking water regulations.

TYPE	CATEGORY	ANALYTE	COMPLIANCE PERIOD
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2012			

Our water system tested a minimum of 6 samples per month monthly sample(s) in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. During the monitoring period covered by this report, we had the following noted detections for microbiological contaminants:

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of October, 1 sample returned as positive	MCL; Systems that Collect Less Than 40 Samples per Month – No more than 1 positive monthly sample	0	Naturally present in the environment

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. at Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	2/27/2012	3	3	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
DALAPON	2/27/2012	36.29	36.29	ppb	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
DI(2-ETHYLHEXYL) PHTHALATE	2/27/2012	0.76	0.54-0.76	ppb	6	0	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
XYLENES, TOTAL	2/27/2012	0.00098	0.00098	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Lead and Copper	Date	90 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2010-2012	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2010-2012	1	1	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

DPB Contaminants	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS(HAA5)	1/1/2012–12/31/2012	37.45	26.5-42.3	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	1/1/2012 – 12/31/2012	56.1	44.5-73.6	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Turbidity Insert (Surface Water Only)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Highest Finished/Combined Effluent Turbidity (for the month)</u>		
January	0.095	July	0.095
February	0.095	August	0.098
March	0.090	September	0.100
April	0.095	October	0.099
May	0.127	November	0.270
June	0.085	December	0.200

NOTE: Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The major sources of turbidity include soil runoff. 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.

++++++Environmental Protection Agency Required Health Effects Language++++++

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromized persons such as persons 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

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Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.

We at the SOUTH TOLEDO BEND WATER DISTRICT work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

Larry Guidry, Manager, South Toledo Bend Water District

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