Public Participation Opportunities

If you would like to find out when SAWS Board meetings and Town Hall meetings are scheduled, call SAWS Communications and Community Outreach Office at 233-3621. You can also visit our web site on the internet at www.saws.org.

Protecting Our Water Sources

An aquifer is a geologic formation which may contain sand, gravel, clays and/or limestone that collects and holds rainfall as it flows through the ground. This happens over the recharge zone.

Rainwater seeps into the Edwards Aquifer at the recharge zone.

Public water systems, like San Antonio Water System (SAWS), are required by law to report every year on the type and quantity of substances that are in our water. This law – the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) that was amended by Congress in 1996 – has specific guidelines concerning drinking water quality, as well as the methods and frequency of testing. The data in this Water Quality Report was recorded within the last five years according to SDWA regulations.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the SDWA to make sure tap water is safe to drink by restricting the presence of contaminants in public water systems. Locally this is carried out by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

SAWS conducts daily testing on the quality of water. In addition, TCEQ also reviews the Edwards and the Trinity aquifers as part of its source water assessment.

Our Commitment to You

SAWS has a long-term commitment to providing our customers with excellent drinking water. Historically, SAWS and its predecessors have been rated as a superior water system since 1936.

Your confidence in San Antonio’s water supply is important to us at SAWS. We are committed to providing reliable, quality water.

Where S&S Hills Water Comes From

During 2005 – the testing period represented in this report – SAWS drinking water for S&S Hills WSC was derived as ground water from the Trinity Aquifer.

What are Contaminants?

The technical term for anything other than water is “contaminant.” It is natural for drinking water to contain contaminants, but as you will see, San Antonio’s water is well within allowable limits. 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.

Sources for 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.

What are 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. While secondary constituents are not required to be reported, a table with this information is on page 3 of this report.
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 or farming;

• Pesticides and herbicides, which may have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use;

• Organic chemical contaminants which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems; and

• Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us at 210-794-SAWS (704-7297).

Understanding The Charts

Maximum Concentrable Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for margin of safety.

Maximum Concentrable Level (MCL): 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 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 contaminants.

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

This table indicates that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

• Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Cryptosporidium is an example of a microorganisms affecting surface water sources. Since SAWS uses underground aquifers as water sources, in 2005 Cryptosporidium was not a tested contaminant.

• 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 or farming;

• Pesticides and herbicides, which may have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use;

• Organic chemical contaminants which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems; and

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Y our Water Quality Report

SAWS has completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this report.

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 or farming;

• Pesticides and herbicides, which may have a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use;

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Secondary Constituents (2001-2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance/Measurement</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Average Found</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria (presence) b</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Highest monthly number of positive samples: 1</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Are Coliforms?

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 than the cause of many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Fecal coliform bacteria and in particular, E. coli, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material. The table below indicates whether total or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing last year.

Microbiological Contaminants Monitoring (2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance/Measurement</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Amount Found</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform Bacteria (presence) b</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Highest monthly number of positive samples: 1</td>
<td>Naturally present in the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sub>a</sub> Fluoride in the form of hydrofluorosilicic acid (H₂SiF₅) was added to SAWS drinking water as of August 2002.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disinfectant</th>
<th>Test Year</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Avg. Conc. Found</th>
<th>MRDL</th>
<th>MRDLG</th>
<th>Possible Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine Residual, Free (ppm)</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>0.021 - 1.69</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Disinfectant used to control microbes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution Sampling for By-Products of Drinking Water Chlorination (Disinfection) (2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Highest Concentration Found</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>Source of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Haloacetic Acids (THAA) (ppb)</td>
<td>8 - 8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) (ppb)</td>
<td>3.2 - 5.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unregulated Contaminants (2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Concentration Range Found</th>
<th>Average Level</th>
<th>Source of Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dichloromethane (ppb)</td>
<td>1.75 - 1.75</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>