

# CITY OF YOAKUM

## 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Phone No: (361) 293-6321

### 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.

#### 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 lesson the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

#### 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 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 bi-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.

#### Public Participation Opportunities

You may call Calvin Cook, City Manager, at 293-6321. Also, the City Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Room at City Hall, 808 South Hwy 77-A.

#### Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from ground water sources. It comes from the Gulf Coast Aquifer. 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 will allow 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 assessments 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.

### **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 water 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>.

### **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.

### **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.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

**NTU** -Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

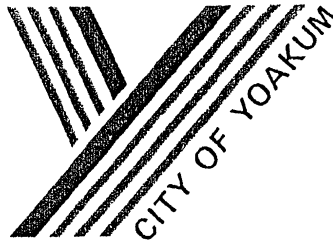
**pCi/L** -picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**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



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**SUBJECT: CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

Dear Water System Customers and Consumers:

The United States enjoys one of the best supplies of drinking water in the world. Nevertheless, many of us who once gave little or no thought to the water that comes from our taps are increasingly asking question about the safety of our drinking water.

Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 and gave the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) the job of making rules, the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR), to ensure that drinking water in the U.S. is safe.

In 1996, Congress passed amendments to the SDWA that require drinking water systems to give consumers important information about their water, including where it comes from, what is in the water, and how your water quality compares with federal standards. These reports are called "Consumer Confidence Reports".

Enclosed is our annual "Consumer Confidence Report". This report contains data from water samples collected during or prior to 2010. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established minimum testing schedules for public water systems. The frequency of monitoring water quality is based in part on the size of the system, the water source, and historical data on water quality.

Providing safe and reliable drinking water is the highest priority for the City's Water Department. Our employees take pride in delivering water to your tap that meets or is better than the standards required by state and federal regulations. As you will see in the enclosed information, the City of Yoakum's water exceeds state and federal requirements for drinking water quality.

### 2010 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2010	1.3	1.3	0.301	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2010	0	15	3.04	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Corosion of household plumbing systems

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2010	3.6	0 - 3.6	No Goal for the Total	60	ppb	N	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2010	22	4.1 - 22	No Goal for the Total	80	ppb	N	By-Product of Drinking Water Chlorination.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	04/14/2008	0.136	0.0916 - 0.136	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge from Metal Refineries; Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Chromium	04/14/2008	2.1	1.91 - 2.1	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from Steel and Pulp Mills; Erosion of Natural Deposits.
Fluoride	04/14/2008	0.48	0.35 - 0.48	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Water Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from Fertilizer and Alumium factories.
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2010	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from Fertilizer use; Leaching from Septic Tanks; Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2010	0.73	0.73 - 0.73	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Gross Alpha excluding Radon and Uranium	2010	4.6	4.6 - 4.6	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of Natural Deposits