

# 2015 Annual Drinking

## Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2015

(Consumer Confidence Report)

Southwest Milam Water Supply Corporation- Public Water System I.D. # 1660015

Phone No.: (512) 446-2604

### Our Drinking Water Is Regulated.

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. 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 at (800) 426-4791.

### Source of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

### Information about Secondary Contaminants

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. Contact Southwest Milam Water at (512) 446-2604 for more information.

**Where do we get our drinking water?** The source of drinking water used by Southwest Milam Water is Ground 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 to infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

**Public Participation Opportunities-** If there are any questions or concerns regarding this Consumer Confidence Report, you can contact Ken Hall, General Manager at (512) 446-2604 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or attend any regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. – 706 E. Cameron Ave. Rockdale TX 76567. Please feel free to post this notice or make copies to employees, tenants, campuses, or other individuals.

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### **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. SOUTHWEST MILAM 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 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>.

### **Information about Source Water Assessments**

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of your 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 may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact Ken Hall, General Manager at (512) 446-2604.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>

Further details about sources and source-water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

| SOURCE WATER NAME | WELL LOCATION           | TYPE OF WATER | LOCATION       |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| ANTHIS            | 3240 C.R. 334 ROCKDALE  | GROUNDWATER   | CARRIZO-WILCOX |
| BIRKHEAD          | 4584 S. FM 908 ROCKDALE | GROUNDWATER   | CARRIZO-WILCOX |
| MILANO REPL. 1    | 398 C.R. 360 MILANO     | GROUNDWATER   | CARRIZO-WILCOX |
| ROCKDALE REPL.    | 1118 SMITH RD. ROCKDALE | GROUNDWATER   | CARRIZO-WILCOX |

### **WATER LOSS REPORT:**

In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of Jan. – Dec. 2015, our system lost an estimated 84,676,069 gallons of water. If you have questions about the water loss audit, please call 512-446-2604.

### **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 of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350, 000 gallons of water.

**ppt:** parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter.

**ppq:** parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter.

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

**NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity).

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

### Inorganic Contaminants

| Collection Date | Inorganic Contaminant          | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Likely Source of Contaminant   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 01/17/12        | Barium                         | 0.189                  | 0.189-0.189              | 2    | 2   | ppm             | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.        |
| 2015            | Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 1                      | 0-1                      | 10   | 10  | ppm             | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| 01/17/12        | Thallium                       | 1.9                    | 1.9-1.9                  | 0.5  | 2   | ppb             | N         | Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching ore-processing sites; drug factories.        |

**Nitrate Advisory-** 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 advice from your health care provider.

### Radioactive Contaminants

| Year | Radioactive Contaminant                 | Highest Level | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Unit of Measure | Violation | Source of Contaminant                   |
|------|---|---------------|-----------------|------|-----|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 2015 | Beta/Photon emitters                    | 6.5           | 6.5-6.5         | 0    | 50  | pCi/L*          | N         | Decay of natural and man-made deposits. |
| 2015 | Combined Radium 226/228                 | 3.1           | 3.1-3.1         | 0    | 5   | pCi/L           | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.            |
| 2015 | Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium | 5.4           | 5.4-5.4         | 0    | 15  | pCi/L           | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.            |

\*EPA considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

### Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

| Year | Disinfectant             | Minimum Level | Average Level | Maximum Level | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Violation | Source of Disinfectant                               |
|------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------|-------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 2015 | Chlorine Residual (Free) | 0.49          | 1.33          | 1.90          | 4    | 4     | ppm             | N         | Disinfectant used to control microbes- Gas Chlorine. |

### Disinfection Byproducts

| <b>Year Range</b> | <b>Contaminant</b>           | <b>Range of Levels Detected</b> | <b>Highest Level Detected</b> | <b>MCL</b> | <b>Unit of Measure</b> | <b>Violation</b> | <b>Source of Contaminant</b>               |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------|--|
| 2015              | Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) | 1.3-1.3                         | 1                             | 80         | ppb                    | N                | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

### Lead and Copper

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Contaminant</b> | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>The 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b> | <b>Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level</b> | <b>Action Level</b> | <b>Violation</b> | <b>Unit of Measure</b> | <b>Source of Constituent</b>  |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|---|
| 2013        | Lead               | 0           | 1.4                                   | 0   | 15                  | N                | ppb                    | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.                                   |
| 2013        | Copper             | 1.3         | 0.139                                 | 0   | 1.3                 | N                | ppm                    | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits. Leaching from wood preservatives. |

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