

# DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES



Office of Environmental Affairs  
Office of Water & Sewerage

March 2009



## 2008 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that drinking water suppliers throughout the country provide a water quality report to their customers on an annual basis. This is the City of Shreveport's water quality report for calendar year 2008. We are pleased to report that Shreveport's drinking water met all regulatory standards and requirements. If you have questions about the report or need more information, please contact plant management at (318) 673-7650.

### City of Shreveport Water Source

Cross Lake is the primary source of the city's water. The Cross Lake Watershed (the area which is drained by streams flowing to the lake) consists of about 260 square miles of land, roughly 2/3 of which is located in Caddo Parish and 1/3 of which is located in Harrison County, Texas. Most of the watershed is undeveloped timberland, but a significant portion is urban or suburban land, within the city limits. During dry periods, Cross Lake is supplemented with water pumped from Twelve Mile Bayou.

A source water assessment of the City's raw water supply by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality was completed in September, 2002. The assessment gives the water supply a high susceptibility rating. The report is available for review by contacting the number shown above, or the Department of Operational Services at (318) 673-7660.

### HEALTH INFORMATION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that all public water systems include language substantially similar to the following in their water quality reports:

- 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 other materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.
- Contaminants that can be expected in untreated source water include biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals; pesticides and herbicides; and organic chemicals from industrial or petroleum use.
- To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 (800-426-4791).
- Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### DEFINITIONS FOR TABLES:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** 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 or 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 or 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 contaminants.

**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.

## 2008 DETECTED SUBSTANCES<sup>1</sup>

Substance	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Major Source	Violation
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.53	0.53	Water Additive – promotes strong teeth	NONE
Turbidity <sup>2</sup>	NTU	TT	N/A	0.17	100% <sup>3</sup>	Natural Lake sediment	NONE
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) <sup>4</sup>	ppb	80*	N/A	18.4**	9.4-26.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NONE
Chloramines (As Chlorine)	ppm	MRDL = 4*	MRDLG = 4	3.1***	0.0 – 4.8	Water additive to control microbes	NONE
HAA-5 Haloacetic Acids <sup>4</sup>	ppb	60*	N/A	16.2**	4.6-24.8	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NONE
Chlorite	ppm	1.0	0.8	0.356****	ND-0.560	By-product of drinking water disinfection	NONE
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	----	TT	N/A	TOC Removal Requirements		Naturally present in the environment	NONE
Lead <sup>5</sup>	ppb	AL = 15	0	90% Value = 1	None>AL	Corrosion of household plumbing	NONE
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	1	1	Erosion of natural deposits	NONE
Nitrate + Nitrite	ppm	10+1	10+1	0.06 <sup>6</sup>	0.06 <sup>6</sup>	Run off from fertilizers	NONE
Gross Beta Particle Activity <sup>7</sup>	pCi/L	50	0	5.7	N/A	Decay of natural and man made deposits	NONE

\* Compliance is based upon a running annual average  
 \*\* Highest running annual average  
 \*\*\* Highest quarterly average  
 \*\*\*\* Highest monthly average

### KEY TO TABLES

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter  
 ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter  
 NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
 MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level  
 MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
 MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level  
 MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

TT = Treatment Technique  
 ND = Non Detect  
 AL = Action Level  
 pCi/L = Picocuries per liter

- 1 Tests were run on numerous regulated substances. Only those listed were detected at any level.
- 2 Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
- 3 The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity levels specified in 40 CFR 141.73 for the filtration technology being used.
- 4 Beginning in October of 2007, new regulations require an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) to be performed, which involves sampling for this disinfectant byproduct at additional points in the water distribution system. Although MCLs are not applicable to the IDSE sampling, all results obtained in 2008 were less than the MCL (5.1-53.1 ppb for TTHMs; 8.7-47.6 ppb for HAA5).
- 5 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. The City of Shreveport's Water System 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>.
- 6 Combined results for Nitrate + Nitrite.
- 7 The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirems per year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. Results are from the 2007 Water Quality Report.

Substance	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Major Source	Violation
Nitrosodimethylamine*	ppb	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	0.0029	Range N.D. – 0.0029	Disinfection By-product	NO

\* Unregulated. Monitored in 2008 as part of EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 2. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.

Shreveport's City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. City Council Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the first floor of the Government Plaza located at 505 Travis Street. Public comment on city matters and participation in the decision making process, including matters pertaining to drinking water quality, are welcome at these meetings ---- please contact the City Council Office at 673-5262 for more information.