2013 Drinking Water Quality Report
January 2013 to December 2013

This annual Drinking Water Quality Report provides information on Austin’s drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all drinking water suppliers in the country provide a water quality report to their customers on an annual basis.

The drinking water provided to you in 2013 met all national and state water quality standards. Additional information on test results can be found in the tables at the end of this report. EPA requires water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Only those found are reported here, all others are not detected. For a complete listing of all test parameters please see the City web site www.austintexas.gov/water or call 512-972-0157.

The Austin City Council meets Thursdays. Information on these meetings can be found by visiting the City’s web site, www.austintexas.gov, or calling 512-974-2210.


City of Austin Water Sources
Customers of Austin Water receive their drinking water from two water treatment plants that pump surface water from the Colorado River as it flows into Lake Austin. The City of Austin treats and filters the water according to federal and state standards to remove any possible harmful contaminants.

The sources of drinking water nationwide (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 can be polluted by animals or human activity.

The Colorado River watershed reaches many miles upstream, passing through agricultural and urban areas. Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria;
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals;
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- **Organic chemicals**, from industrial or petroleum use; and
- **Radioactive materials**, which can be naturally-occurring.

EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems to ensure that tap water is safe to drink. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more concerns with taste, odor, or color of drinking water, contact Austin Water at 512-972-0021.

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 the 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 Water Assessment
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for the water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact the Utility’s Water Regulatory Manager at 512-972-0021.

Cryptosporidium Testing
All surface water sources are known to be susceptible to contamination by *Cryptosporidium*. Because of this, Austin Water monitors for *Cryptosporidium* in the lake water, which is the source of water to the two water treatment plants, and the drinking water. *Cryptosporidium was not found in the lake or drinking water in 2013.*

SPECIAL NOTICE
You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immuno-compromised 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 lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking Water Regulations
Austin Water was in full compliance with the State of Texas and the EPA national primary drinking water regulations during the 12-month period covered by this report, and we continue to be in compliance.

Austin Water is committed to providing for Austin’s current and future water needs in a reliable and sustainable way.
Fluoride and Infants

Water fluoridated at a level optimal for oral health (as is used in Austin) poses no known health risks for infants. However, some children may develop enamel fluorosis, a cosmetic condition where faint white markings or streaks may appear on the teeth. Fluorosis can affect both baby teeth and permanent teeth while they’re forming under the gums.

If you’re concerned about fluorosis, you can minimize your baby’s exposure to fluoride in several ways. Breastfeeding is the best source of nutrition for infants. If breast feeding is not possible, you can minimize exposure to fluoride by using ready-to-feed formula. You can also alternate using tap water and nonfluoridated water for formula preparation, or mix powdered or liquid infant formula concentrate with low-fluoride water most or all of the time. However, if you use only nonfluoridated water — such as purified, demineralized, deionized or distilled bottled water — to prepare your baby’s formula, your baby’s doctor may recommend fluoride supplements beginning at age 6 months.