



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Tomball's Water Rated Superior: Surpasses State Standards!

Recent, Houston-area news reports have raised concern about radiation levels in public drinking water. Some reports also suggest that certain public water systems may not be reporting, or may be under-reporting the levels of radiochemicals in their drinking water.

As a State recognized Superior Water System, the City of Tomball's public water system has consistently met all State and Federal water quality, testing, and reporting requirements. The City's water is routinely tested by an independent laboratory and the results are sent directly to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This information is provided to all City water customers in the Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report is mailed to all our customers every year and is available on the City's website. You may also request a copy of the CCR by contacting the Public Works Department at 281-290-1425.

It is important to know that 100% of the City's public drinking water is produced from groundwater and that radiochemicals occur naturally in groundwater. Elements such as uranium and barium exist naturally in the ground through the erosion of natural deposits and do not pose an immediate health risk.

Per State regulations, all public drinking water systems are tested for radiochemicals every five years. Gross Alpha is the standard element looked at when testing for radiation. In 2006, the City's drinking water averaged 0.55 pCi/L in the Gross Alpha category. The Maximum Contaminant Limit is 15 pCi/L.

Some news reports also reference a searchable database maintained by TCEQ where you can search and review radiochemical data for public drinking water systems in Texas. This particular database only includes public water systems that have reported Gross Alpha levels in excess of 3.00 pCi/L. Since the City of Tomball's levels are significantly below that level, our information will not be shown in that database.

The specific data for the City of Tomball system can be viewed on the public works/water page on the City's website, or by using the following link
<http://www.ci.tomball.tx.us/publicworks/water.html> For more information on radiochemicals and

testing, you can visit

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/pdw/chemicals/radionuclides/index.

You may also contact the City of Tomball Public Works Department for any water quality questions at 281-290-1425.