

# 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 • City of La Grange, Public Water System ID TX0750003

This report provides a summary of important information about your drinking water and the efforts by City of La Grange Utilities to provide safe drinking water. Water quality test results shown are required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Annual Drinking Water Quality Reports such as this one are required of every public water system to provide information to their water customers as stated in the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. We are proud to report that, once again, the City of La Grange provided its customers with safe, high quality drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements.

## Special Notice for Elderly, Infants, and Immuno-Compromised People:

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; people 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 providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

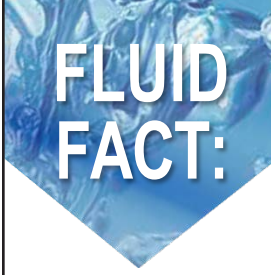
## Information about Drinking Water Contaminants:

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.

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 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800-426-4791)**.

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

Contaminants found in drinking water may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact La Grange Utilities at **979-968-3127**.



**FLUID FACT:**

It is important for everyone to conserve water. For Water Conservation Tips give La Grange Utilities a call at [979-968-3127](tel:979-968-3127)

## Information about Drinking Water Sources and Source Water Assessments

La Grange relies entirely on groundwater for its drinking water supply, pumping water from eight deep wells in the Catahoula Tuff Aquifer. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (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 detections 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 Frank Menefee at [fmenefee@cityoflg.com](mailto:fmenefee@cityoflg.com).

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

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

## Water Loss Audit Results:

The Texas Legislature requires all retail public water suppliers to file a water loss report annually and notify their customers of the results. Water loss is water that is produced by the utility for which the utility does not receive revenue. A variety of factors contribute to water loss, including meter accuracy, water line breaks and leaks, and unauthorized consumption.

In the most recent water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the 2016 calendar year, the City of La Grange recorded an estimated 36,475,255 gallons of water loss. *For questions about the water loss audit, please call 979-968-3127.*

## How Much is a Drop? Understanding Concentration Levels

Many MCLs are set in units of parts per million or parts per billion. Some drinking water contaminants can be detected in amounts as small as parts per quadrillion! How much is that, anyway?

*Some  
real-world parts-  
per-million and  
parts-per-billion  
equivalents:*

\$0.01 in \$10,000 = 1 ppm  
1 minute in 2 years = 1 ppm  
1 inch in 16 miles = 1 ppm

\$0.01 in \$10,000,000 = 1 ppb  
1 second in 32 years = 1 ppb  
1 inch in 16,000 miles = 1 ppb

*One part per billion is 1,000 times smaller than one part per million – the difference between \$1 and \$1,000.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

### City Council Meetings

**Date:** 2nd and 4th Monday

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** La Grange City Hall

**979-968-5805**

To learn about future public meetings concerning your drinking water, please call the City Secretary's Office at **979-968-5805**, or La Grange Utilities at **979-968-3127**.

# 2016 Water Quality Test Results

## Definitions

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

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

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

**na:** not applicable.

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

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

## Water Quality Test Results

### Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Year Sampled	Contaminant	Highest Average Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2016	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	15	0-17.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
2016	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	97	61.9-107	No goal for the total	80	ppb	Y	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Average level of Quarterly Data 0.775	Free Chlorine	Lowest result of a single sample 0.2	Highest result of a single sample 1.6	Maximum residual Disinfectant level (MRDL) 4.0	Maximum residual Disinfectant level goal (MRDLG) 4.0	Unit of Measure Mg/L		Source of chemical Gas from D.X.I in Houston, TX

## Inorganic Contaminants

Year Sampled	Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2014	Fluoride	0.94	0.94 - 0.94	4.0	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
2016	Selenium	6.4	3.3-6.4	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum & metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2016	Arsenic	6	0-6.7	10	0	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards & glass & electronics production wastes.
2016	Barium	0.0534	0.0155 - 0.0534	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2016	Nitrate	0.1	0.02 - 0.1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits

## Radioactive Contaminants

Year Sampled	Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation? Y/N	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2016	Beta/photon emitters*	13.2	8-13.2	50	0	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
2016	Combined Radium 226/228	4.4	1.5-4.4	5	0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
2016	Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	3.1	0-3.1	15	0	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits

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

Volatile Organic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Units	Violation? Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Ethylbenzene	2016	0.6	0-0.6	700	700	ppb	N	Discharge from Petroleum Factories
Xylenes	2016	0.004	0-0.004	10	10	ppm	N	Discharge from petroleum & chemical factories

## Lead and Copper Monitoring

Year Sampled	Substance	90th Percentile*	Action Level	Sites Exceeding Action Level	Possible Source(s) of Contaminant
2014	Lead	2.5 ppb	15 ppb	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
2014	Copper	0.13 ppm	1.3 ppm	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and copper are monitored at the customer's water tap because exposure comes from household plumbing. La Grange's water does not exceed the action level for lead or copper. 90 percent of La Grange's tap water samples measured at or below 2.5 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 0.13 parts per million (ppm) for copper. The Environmental Protection Agency considers the 90th percentile the same as an 'average' value for other contaminants.

## Violations Table

Public Notification Rule			
The Public Notification Rule helps to ensure that consumers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. These notices immediately alert consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water (e.g. a boil water emergency).			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
PUBLIC NOTICE RULE LINKED TO VIOLATION	05/09/2016	06/08/2016	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water consumers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

### Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MCL, LRAA	01/01/2016	03/31/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	04/01/2016	06/30/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	07/01/2016	09/30/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.
MCL, LRAA	10/01/2016	12/31/2016	Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

#### UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

*Bill pay, connect/disconnect utilities*

**979-968-3127**

[www.cityoflg.com](http://www.cityoflg.com)

#### UTILITY HOTLINE

*Line breaks, sewer backups, power outages*

**979-968-3127 [24 hours]**