

# WATER QUALITY 2020



PWS# 0280002

EXCELLENCE IN WATER QUALITY

**Luling Water Department 830-875-2469**

**GBRA Water Treatment Plant 830-875-2132**

Dear Customer,

The City of Luling is pleased to provide you with the 2020 Water Quality Report (January 1-December 31, 2020). We take all possible precautions to safeguard your water supply and hope you will be encouraged to learn about the high quality of water provided to you.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires water utilities to issue an annual report to customers, in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report explains where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, and the health risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent.

We are committed to providing you with information about your water supply because informed customers are our best allies in supporting improvements needed to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

**We are proud to report that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our system and determined that your drinking water, meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality standards.**

The tables on this report list all substances that were detected in our treated water, and the highest level at which they were detected. The tables also reflect the highest levels allowed by federal regulatory agencies. Please read this information carefully and if you have questions, call the numbers listed in this report. An electronic copy of this report can be found at:  
**[www.gbra.org/documents/publications/ccrs/2020/Luling.pdf](http://www.gbra.org/documents/publications/ccrs/2020/Luling.pdf)**

### **Customer Views Welcome**

The City of Luling strongly supports the national primary water regulation compliance process. If you are interested in learning more about the water department, water quality, or participating in the decision-making process, there are a number of opportunities available.

Questions about water quality can be answered by calling 830-875-2469 from 8 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Inquiries about public participation and policy decisions should be directed to the City Manager's office at 830-875-2481.

The Luling City Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at City Hall and all meetings are open to the public.

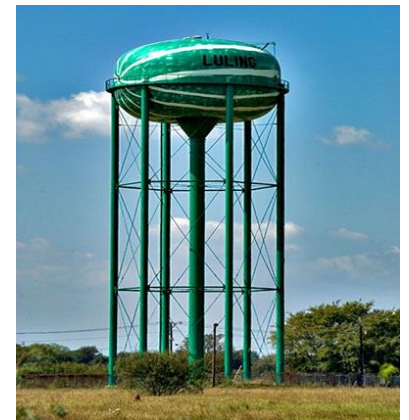
### **En Español**

Este informe incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. 830-875-2469 para hablar con una personal bilingüe en español durante las horas regulares de oficina (8 am – 5 pm).

### **CONSERVE WATER/SAVE WATER!**

#### **Water Saving Tips:**

Reduce indoor water usage by 40-50% by installing low-flush toilets and low flow fixtures  
Water lawns once a week rather than a short period every day  
Fix leaks and stop the dripping faucets  
American Water Works Drip calculator to estimate water waste:  
**<https://drinktapp.org/Water-Info/Water-Conservation/Drip-Calculator>**



## Information about your Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (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, 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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.

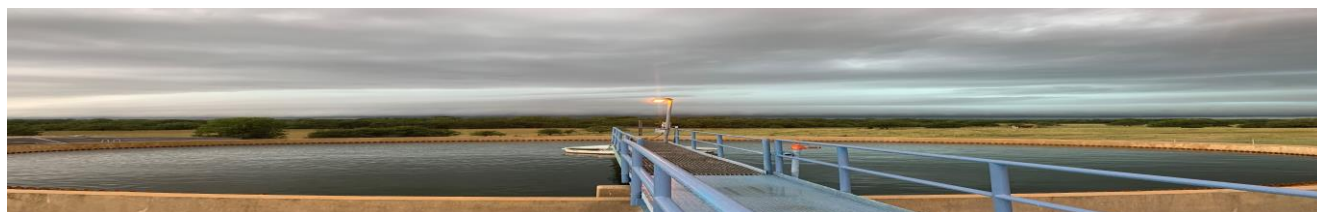
In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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; persons 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).

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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>.

Photo by Daniel Ocegüera



## Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

The City of Luling received its water from surface water diverted from the San Marcos River and treated at the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source was conducted by TCEQ. This report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with the drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The system from which we purchase our water received the assessment report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact City of Luling, City Hall at 830-875-2481.

Trained operators monitor and test the water, including the addition of fluoride and chloramine, to ensure that our water meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The treated water is delivered to the city's water towers and delivered through its distribution system to you. For information on the treatment of your drinking water and water quality protection efforts, contact GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant at 830-875-2132.

## What We Found

The following tables list the contaminants that have been found in your drinking water. USEPA requires water systems to test for more than 97 contaminants. The column marked "Highest Level at Any Sampling Point" shows the highest test results during the year. The "Source of Contaminant" column shows where the substance usually originates. In the water loss audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board, our system loss an estimated 42,820,400 gallons. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call 830-875-2481.

### **DEFINITIONS and ABBREVIATIONS**

**Action Level (AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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.

**Avg** – Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – the highest level of the contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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

**ND** – Not Detected

**NTU's** – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

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

**ppm** – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb** – parts per billion (ug/L)

**Level 1 Assessment** – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system

**Level 2 Assessment** – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E.coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Photo by Albert Soto



# Water Quality 2020

**TABLE I - Test results for the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant source**

Total organic carbon (TOC) sampled from water has no health effects. The disinfection can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Constituent	Average Constituent	Minimum Concentration	Maximum Concentration	Units of Measure	Source of Constituent
2020	Total organic carbon	1.21	0.8	1.52	ppm	Naturally occurring; no health effects directly associated

**TABLE II - Test results for the GBRA water supply to Luling (Sampled at the GBRA Luling Water Treatment Plant)**

**Inorganics**

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analyses	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2020	Barium	0.034	1	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Fluoride	0.64	1	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; runoff from fertilizer use.
2020	Nitrate-Nitrogen	162	1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; treated wastewater effluent; erosion of natural deposits.
2020	Cyanide	0.13	1	2	2	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.

**Volatile Organic Contaminants**

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration Avg	Number of Analysis Performed	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2020	p-Dichlorobenzene	0.7	1	75	75	ppb	N	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

**Turbidity**

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Turbidity is measured 4 times per day through grab samples and continuously through automatic on-line filter turbidity monitors.

Year	Detected Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Units of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2020	Turbidity	0.16	100%	0.3	NTU	N	Soil runoff

**Total Coliforms**

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Constituent	Test Results
2019	Total Coliform	Reported monthly test found no coliform bacteria
2019	E coli	Reported monthly tests found no E. coli bacteria



# Water Quality 2020

**TABLE III - Test results for the GBRA water supply to Luling (Sampled in the Luling Distribution System)**

**Total Coliforms**

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Constituent	Reported
2020	Total Coliform	Reported monthly test found no coliform bacteria
2020	E coli	Reported monthly tests found no E. coli bacteria

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

Year	Detected Constituent	Average Concentration	Minimum Concentration	Maximum Concentration	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit Of Measure	Source of Constituent
2020	Chloramines	2.74	0.5	4.8	4	4	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes

**Disinfection Byproducts**

Year	Constituent	Highest Level or Avg. Detected	Range of Individual Samples	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Contaminant
2020	Total Haloacetic Acids	12	0 - 16.1	No Goal	60	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2020	Total Trihalomethanes	31	14.2 - 29.2	No Goal	80	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Inorganic Contaminant**

Year	Detected Constituent	Measured Concentration	Number of Analysis	MCL	MCLG	Units of Measure	Violation	Source of Constituent
2020	Nitrate-Nitrogen	162	1	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from Fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks treated wastewater effluent, erosion of natural deposits

**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	1/9/2020	4/3/2020	We failed to adequately notify you, our drinking water customers, about a violation of the drinking water regulations.

