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 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 salt 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.

- **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. The regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Secondary Constituents: Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The tests and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern.

**Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?**

The source of drinking water used by the City of Bellaire is 53% Surface Water supplied by the City of Houston’s East Water Purification Plant, and 47% Ground Water from the Evangeline Aquifer. A Source Water Suisceptibility Assessment for your drinking water sources is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of contaminants that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at http://www.txdww.tceq.texas.gov. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.
**Regulated Contaminants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inorganic Contaminants</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MCL</th>
<th>MCG</th>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>Min - Max Level</th>
<th>HIGHEST LEVEL</th>
<th>VIO LATION</th>
<th>LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic (ppb)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0 - 5.4</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for Arsenic, it does contain low levels of Arsenic. EPA's standard balances the benefits of purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including tap water from your physician or health care provider.

**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 immunocompromised 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 for infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider.

**Total Coliforms**

- 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 common than many disease causing organisms; therefore, the absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiology safe for human consumption.

**Disinfection By-products**

- Chlorine (ppm)
- Chloramines and Disinfectant Compounds
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants
- Volatile Organic Contaminants
- Turbidity
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants
- Turbidity

**Total Chlorine**

- Required yearly tests found via Coliform bacteria.

**Definitions and Abbreviations**

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest permissible level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close as possible to the MCLG 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. This is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

- **Arsenic:** An element that is present in drinking water in low naturally occurring concentrations and can be harmful to human health.

- **Chlorine:** A disinfectant commonly used in water treatment to reduce the concentration of harmful microorganisms in drinking water.

- **Synthetic Organic Compounds:** Substances that are not naturally occurring in water but are present in the environment due to industrial or agricultural activities.

- **Turbidity:** A measure of the degree of optical clarity of water, often used as an indicator of suspended solids or other particulate matter.

- **Volatile Organic Compounds:** Organic compounds that evaporate at room temperature and can be found in water supplies.

- **Disinfection By-products:** Compounds formed during the disinfection process in water treatment facilities.

- **Total Chlorine:** The sum of free and combined chlorine in water, which is a measure of the effectiveness of disinfection.

- **Total Coliforms:** Bacteria that are present in waste from humans and animals and can indicate the presence of other pathogenic microorganisms.

**Level 1 Assessment:**

- Level 1 assessment is a 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.

- Level 2 Assessment:**

- Level 2 assessment is a more detailed study of the water system to identify 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. NA: Not applicable.