

Glossary of Terms

Acre-Foot- The volume of one acre of surface area to a depth of one foot. 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons of water.

Ammonia- Ammonia has been used in municipal treatment systems for over 70 years to prolong the effectiveness of disinfection chlorine added to drinking water. The addition of ammonia enhances the formation of chloramines, and it reduces the formation of chlorination byproducts.

Bacteriological Sample (Bac-T) – A water sample collected and analyzed for the absence or presence of coliform and e-coli bacteria.

(CTWSC)- Central Texas Water Supply Corporation

Chloramine. Formed when ammonia is added to chlorine. A safer disinfectant with less by products. The City of Lampasas use chloramines as the disinfectant for our water.

Coliform Bacteria- Organisms present in the environment and in the feces of all warm-blooded animals and humans. Coliform bacteria will not likely cause illness. However, their presence in drinking water indicates that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) could be in the water system.

Dead End: Water main not looped in the water distribution system.

Disinfection Byproduct (DBP)- Are chemicals that form, during drinking water treatment and distribution, when naturally occurring organic matter reacts with chlorine or other disinfectants used to kill pathogenic organisms. The EPA has determined that four of these chemicals, or classes of chemicals, pose potential health risks and must be regulated. HAA5 and THM.

Distribution System –Infrastructure used to supply water from its source to the point of usage.

Escherichia coli (E-coli) - bacteria found in the environment, foods, and intestines of people and animals. E. coli are a large and diverse group of bacteria. Although most strains of E. coli are harmless, others can make you sick.

Entry Point– The point in which water is exchanged from the supplier to the purchaser.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -An agency of the United States government that works to protect human health and the environment.

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) - A disinfection byproduct.

ISO- ISO was formed in 1971 as an advisory and rating organization for the property/casualty insurance industry to provide statistical and actuarial services. They provide numerous services including Fire and Building code.

(KWSC)- Kempner Water Supply Corporation

LAS- Liquid Ammonium Sulfate used in conjunction with chlorine to form chloramines for use in water treatment disinfection.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) -The concentration level of a contaminant that is regulated.

Monochloramine - One portion of a chloramine. The strongest and most stable of the chloramine atoms.

Nitrification –Nitrification is a microbial process that converts ammonia and similar nitrogen compounds into nitrite (NO₂⁻) and then nitrate (NO₃⁻). Nitrification can occur in water systems that contain chloramines. A good an indicator of water age.

Purchased-water system- Public water system that purchases (or otherwise receives) at least some portion of its potable water from a different public water system. A purchased-water system that operates as a “distribution-only” system retains responsibility for managing drinking water quality and compliance with Texas rules within the distribution system.

SWDA-Safe Water Drinking Act

SCADA- Supervisory control and data acquisition control system.

Surface Water- Water on the surface of the planet such as in a river, lake, wetland, or ocean.

TCEQ -Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, previously known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission before Sept. 1, 2002.

Total Chlorine- The sum of all combined chlorine.

Trihalomethanes (THM) – Regulated disinfection byproduct