

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE

The City of Houston public hearing for rezoning parcel on Oakhill will be held July 11th at 6 pm at City Hall, 601 S. Grand. 10/2t

Texas County Administrative Center Commission Meeting Room, Suite 301 Houston, Missouri 65483

Tentative cut-off date to be heard before the board is 4:30 p.m. July 10, 2024. To make an appointment with the board, contact the county clerk's office at 417-967-2112.

tion's agenda is open for public inspection after July 22, 2024, at the office of the county clerk.

You can find an appeal form to fill out at the following address: texas-countymissouri.gov, under the assessor's page.

Peggy Seyler, County Clerk & Board of equalization clerk

Publication date-June 27th and July 4th, 2024 Houston Herald 10/2t

## NOTICE

Texas County Board of Equalization Hearing July 17, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

The board of equaliza-

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PHOTOS: Houston Senior Center holds walk Friday to benefit meals program

## Feds to scrutinize Missouri's worst-in-the-nation Medicaid application delays

Missouri's delays in processing Medicaid applications — among the worst in the nation — have the attention of federal regulators, who will conduct a "focused review" of the problem, according to a letter obtained by The Independent.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in a letter sent to the state May 22 and obtained under Missouri's Sunshine Law, said it is concerned the state is not doing enough to "achieve and sustain" compliance with federal rules on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Because of these concerns, the agency will intervene to help Missouri identify strategies to come back into compliance.

Medicaid applications for low-income Americans are required to be reviewed within 45 days.

In Missouri, the most recent federal data from February shows 72% of applications took more than 45 days to process — the worst in the country that month. That's up from 58% in January.

Nationwide, most applications were processed within 24 hours last year.

The Missouri Department of Social Services, which oversees the state's Medicaid program, is required to submit specified data to the feds this month to work on strategies for coming back into compliance. If it doesn't improve, Missouri could be subject to formal compliance actions, including an official corrective action plan, and would be at risk of losing federal funding.

A similar letter was sent to Texas, according to the business publication Modern Healthcare. A CMS spokesperson didn't immediately answer a question about which other states were included.

Long processing times can cause low-income patients and those with disabilities to forego medical care and prescriptions. Patients have told The Independent they are delaying medical care during pregnancy because they can't get enrolled in Medicaid.

The federal government said in the May letter it is concerned "particularly given the prolonged period of the state's noncompliance."

In December, more than half of Missouri's applications took longer than 45 days to process.

As of February, Missouri's 72% noncompliance rate stands far above other states. The next highest were New Mexico (58%), Alaska (53%) and Texas (46%).

Tim McBride, a health policy analyst, professor at Washington University in St. Louis and former chair of the board that oversees Missouri's Medicaid program, said it is "very concerning" just how much Missouri's issues stand out.

"If we compare the state's processing time to other states, we appear to really be an outlier," he said, and "in not such a good way."

It's not clear why Missouri can't meet the 45-day requirement, McBride said.

"We have heard the problem is understaffing, antiquated computer systems and a problematic call center," he said. "But more could be done to rectify this."

In summer 2022, the federal government initiated a formal mitigation plan with the state to get the processing time down.

It worked, but wait times started creeping back up in October, according to the letter. In October, 34% of determinations exceeded 45 days.

"Although we understand that the state continues to employ the strategies outlined in its July 2022 mitigation plan," the letter states, "due to the persistent nature of the current backlog, we believe it is critical for the state to review its current processes and adopt additional alternative strategies that will mitigate the harm being caused to applicants."

Missouri's social services agency is committed to cooperating with the federal probe and improving the wait times, spokesperson Baylee Watts said, and will submit the data by the deadline.

"The Department of Social Services is actively working to furnish the information needed for CMS's review process," Watts said.

"Our goal is always to strive towards continuous improvement when serving Missourians, and we will continue to work with our federal partners to achieve that."

The letter states that CMS engaged with Missouri staff in January to try to understand and fix the backlog, and that the state attributed the problem to an increase in applications at the time.

From November to mid-January, during open enrollment season for the federal insurance marketplace, the state generally sees an uptick in Medicaid applications.

## MSU set to welcome new president

Missouri State University will soon have a new system president. Dr. Richard "Biff" Williams will take the helm on July 1, replacing Cliff Smart who is retiring from the position after 13 years.

Williams served as president of Utah Tech University (previously Dixie State University) from 2014 through early 2024. Previously, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and founding dean of the College of Nursing, Health and Human Services at Indiana State University. Prior to Indiana State, Williams served as an associate dean of the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa, where he was a faculty member; executive associate director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services; and



WILLIAMS

athletic training department chair.

Williams has a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from New Mexico State University, master's in athletic training from Indiana State University and a bachelor's in lifestyle management from Weber State University. He becomes the 12th president of MSU.

University officials said they expect Williams to visit the West Plains campus this fall. Learn more about Williams online at MissouriState.edu/Incoming-President.

**Local News**

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MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

### TEXAS COUNTY PWS 3 Public Water System ID Number: MO4024608 2023 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report)

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made to provide safe drinking water.

Atencion! Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o pregúntele a alguien que lo entienda bien. [Translated: This report contains very important information. Translate or ask someone who understands this very well.]

What is the source of my water? The source of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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 from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Our water comes from the following source(s):

Source Name	Type
WELL # 2 WEST OF 6420 MCKINNEY RD	GROUND WATER
WELL # 1 6420 MC KINNEY RD	GROUND WATER

Source Water Assessment The Department of Natural Resources conducted a source water assessment to determine the susceptibility of our water source to potential contaminants. This process involved the establishment of source water area delineations for each well or surface water intake and then a contaminant inventory was performed within those delineated areas to assess potential threats to each source. Assessment maps and summary information sheets are available on the internet at https://drinkingwater.missouri.edu/. The Missouri Source Water Protection and Assessment maps and information sheets provide a foundation upon which a more comprehensive source water protection plan can be developed.

Why are there contaminants in my water? 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: A. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. B. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. C. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban water runoff, and residential uses. D. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. E. 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, the Department of Natural Resources prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department of Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations? The Missouri Department of Natural Resources regulates our water system and requires us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. Our system has been assigned the identification number MO4024608 for the purposes of tracking our test results. Last year, we tested for a variety of contaminants. The detectable results of these tests are on the following pages of this report. Any violations of state requirements or standards will be further explained later in this report.

If you would like to observe the decision-making process that affect drinking water quality or if you have any further questions about your drinking water report, please call us at 417-967-2129 to inquire about scheduled meetings or contact persons.

Do I need to take any special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Terms and Abbreviations

Population: 800. This is the equivalent residential population served including non-bill paying customers. 90th percentile: For Lead and Copper testing, 10% of test results are above this level and 90% are below this level. AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. HAA5: Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di- and tri-chloroacetic acid, and mono- and di-bromoacetic acid) as a group. LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average, or the locational average of sample analytical results for samples taken during the previous four calendar quarters. Range of Results: Shows the lowest and highest levels found during a testing period. If only one sample was taken, then this number equals the Highest Test Result or Highest Value. SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level, or the secondary standards that are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants and may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends these standards but does not require water systems to comply with them. TT: Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. THM: Total Trihalomethanes (chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform) as a group.



### Contaminants Report

TEXAS COUNTY PWS 3 will provide a printed hard copy of the CCR upon request. To request a copy of this report to be mailed, please call us at 417-967-2129. The CCR can also be found on the internet at www.dnr.mo.gov/ccr/MO4024608.pdf.

The state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Records with a sample year more than one year old are still considered representative. No data older than 5 years need be included. If more than one sample is collected during the monitoring period, the Range of Sampled Results will show the lowest and highest tested results. The Highest Test Result, Highest LRAA, or Highest Value must be below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) or the contaminant has exceeded the level of health based standards and a violation is issued to the water system.

#### Regulated Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Test Result	Range of Sampled Result(s) (low - high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
BARIUM	10/20/2021	0.0511	0.0306 - 0.0511	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
NITRATE-NITRITE	10/10/2023	0.05	0.049 - 0.05	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90th Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of Sampled Results (low - high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER	2020 - 2022	0.058	0.00261 - 0.0703	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
LEAD	2020 - 2022	0	0 - 4.25	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

#### Violations and Health Effects Information

During the 2023 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Type
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2023		

#### Special Lead and Copper Notice:

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. TEXAS COUNTY PWS 3 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 (800-426-4791) or at http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm.

All contaminant sample results from past and present compliance monitoring are available online at the Missouri DNR Drinking Water Watch website at www.dnr.mo.gov/DWW/. To see the Lead and Copper results, enter your water system's name in the box titled Water System Name, then select Find Water Systems at the bottom of the page. On the next screen, click on the Water System Number. At the top of the next page, under the Help column, click on Other Chemical Results by Analyte. Scroll down to Lead and click the blue Analyte Code (1030). A Sample Collection Date range may need to be entered. The Lead and Copper locations will be displayed under the heading Sample Comments. Scroll to find your location and click on the Sample No. for results. If you assisted the water system in taking a Lead and Copper sample but cannot find your location on the list, please contact TEXAS COUNTY PWS 3 for your results.

#### Optional Monitoring (not required by EPA)

##### Optional Contaminants

Monitoring is not required for optional contaminants.

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Your Water System Highest Sampled Result	Range of Sampled Result(s) (low - high)	Unit	SMCL
ALKALINITY, CACO3 STABILITY	10/20/2021	194	169 - 194	MG/L	
ALUMINUM	10/20/2021	0.0221	0 - 0.0221	MG/L	0.05
CALCIUM	10/20/2021	45.3	40.6 - 45.3	MG/L	
HARDNESS, CARBONATE	10/20/2021	216	188 - 216	MG/L	
IRON	10/20/2021	0.116	0.0654 - 0.116	MG/L	0.3
MAGNESIUM	10/20/2021	25.1	21.1 - 25.1	MG/L	
MANGANESE	10/20/2021	0.0236	0 - 0.0236	MG/L	0.05
NICKEL	10/20/2021	0.00108	0 - 0.00108	MG/L	0.1
PH	10/20/2021	7.69	7.57 - 7.69	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	10/20/2021	1.05	0 - 1.05		
SODIUM	10/20/2021	1.82	1.68 - 1.82	MG/L	
SULFATE	10/20/2021	6.24	0 - 6.24	MG/L	250
TDS	10/20/2021	206	164 - 206	MG/L	500
ZINC	10/20/2021	0.0774	0.0261 - 0.0774	MG/L	5

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends these standards but does not require water systems to comply.

March 13, 2024