

MERRY CHRISTMAS



EASTEX ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

December 2013 Newsletter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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From all of us to you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you and together we will make 2014 another great year!

Why is my BOD/CBOD High?

BOD is the traditional, most widely used test to establish concentration of organic matter in wastewater samples (i.e., relative strength). The BOD test is based on the accurate measure of DO (Dissolved Oxygen) at the beginning and end of a five-day period in which the sample is held in dark, incubated conditions. The change in DO concentration over five days represents the "oxygen demand". The BOD is meant to measure the quality of the waste water sample's organic loading. However, there are several chemicals used in sewer treatment plants that have oxygen demand also. These chemicals in excess can cause higher BOD/CBOD readings. The most common chemical that can cause an oxygen demand reading is the dechlorination chemicals used to remove chlorine from the effluent. These sulfite by-products have a high oxygen demand. Other chemicals used for flocking or settling sludge can cross over to the effluent and create an oxygen demand. Peroxides also have a high demand when added to water. A natural cause of increasing oxygen demand in an effluent, are algae and other diatoms. In the dark phase of the BOD incubation, they die and create an oxygen demand. All the above items can raise your BOD level causing a false or biased high reading in a perfectly good effluent sample.



HUB Certified

Eastex Environmental Lab is happy to announce that we have been certified by the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business Program as a Woman Owned Business, Certificate VID Number 1760195922800. HUB is designed to facilitate the participation of minority and woman-owned businesses in state and federal agency procurement opportunities. We know this can benefit our current state and federal funded customers as well as provide new opportunities for growth.

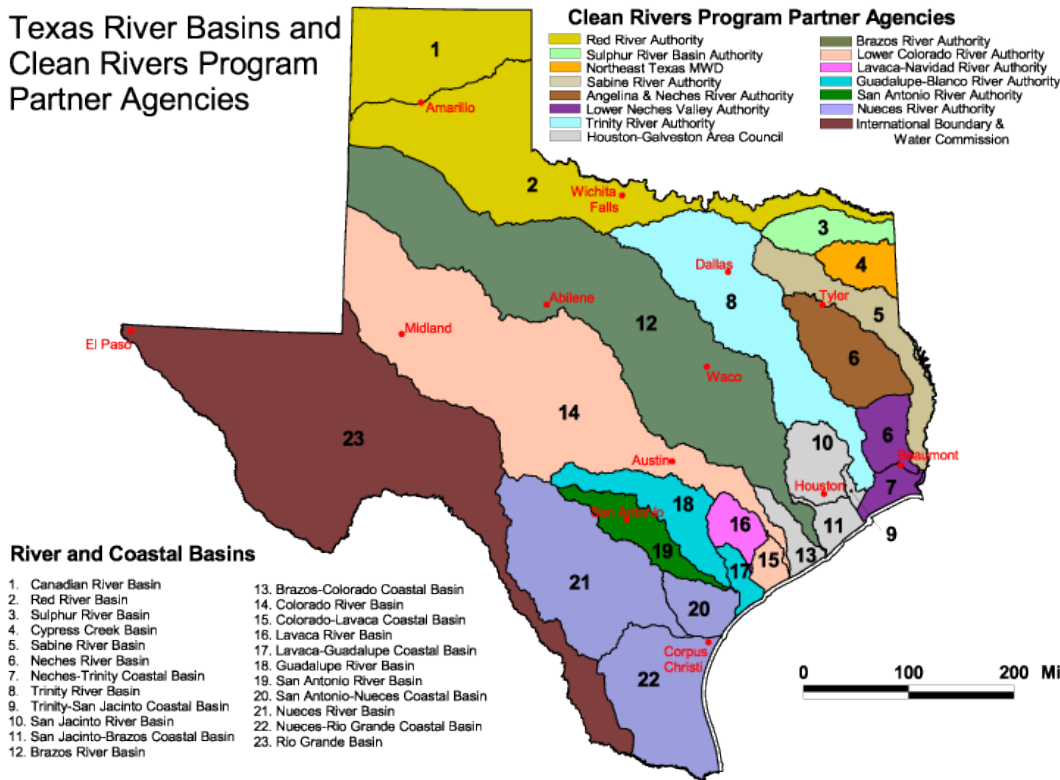
My lab report lists my results in "ppm." What does that mean?

Most wastewater test results will be reported in either milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm). The good news is these two units are equal and thus are interchangeable! However, make sure you always note the units reported. Some wastewater parameters (e.g., heavy metals) are often reported in smaller units such as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{m/L}$) or parts per billion (ppb).





Texas River Basins and Clean Rivers Program Partner Agencies



We are a Clean Rivers Program Laboratory

Clean Rivers Program Established in 1991, the [Clean Rivers Program \(CRP\)](#) is a very successful partnership between the TCEQ, regional water authorities, and the public. Fifteen regional water authorities manage the program in 23 river and coastal basins. The CRP is a hub for water quality information and coordination of monitoring efforts and public participation, for each river basin. CRP partners collect more than 60% of water quality data used by TCEQ.

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Community Awareness

In the small town of Coldspring, Texas, on the fourth Saturday (Mar.-Nov) the historical society holds a Trades Day. People come from far and wide to buy and sell their wares, watch local artists in action, and enjoy our small community. This month, Eastex joined the tradition and set up a booth of our own on the square of the county seat. Anderia, Ruth and Susan spent a beautiful Saturday morning talking with those who strolled by about the responsibility of owning a private well and getting it tested for total coliform bacteria on an annual basis. It was a real treat to be out in the community representing Eastex Environmental Lab. We want to extend an invitation to you to come to Coldspring Trades Day and enjoy a Saturday morning strolling our square. For more information please visit <http://www.coldspringtexas.org/>



Why test water?

The quality of drinking-water is a powerful environmental determinant of health. Assurance of drinking-water safety is a foundation for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases. Water is essential for life. The amount of fresh water on earth is limited, and its quality is under constant pressure. Preserving the quality of fresh water is important for the drinking-water supply, food production and recreational water use.

