

Hexavalent Chromium or “Chromium 6”

You may have seen Hexavalent Chromium or “Chromium 6” in the news lately in relation to reports asserting that Chromium 6, when inhaled, can be a cancer-causing element. At this time, Chromium 6 is not regulated in the State of Texas. Total Chromium, which includes Chromium 6, is regulated, and the maximum contaminant limit of Total Chromium is 100 parts per billion (ppb). Currently, only the State of California regulates Chromium 6 in the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) listed Chromium 6 on its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring list in 2012. Between 2013 and 2015, all public water systems serving a population greater than 10,001 were required to test for Chromium 6. In addition, 800 small systems across the United States were also tested. Your District was not one of the small systems picked to test for Chromium 6. However, in 2017, Fort Bend County MUD 2 tested for Chromium 6 in the surface water coming in from the City of Houston via the North Fort Bend Water Authority and in groundwater pumped from the District’s two wells. The sample from groundwater well 2 had a detected level of 3.4 ppb of Chromium 6. All other results were below the test limit of 0.3 ppb. (The test limit means this is the lowest level that the test can detect in the water.) In 2016, well 2 pumped a total of 4.490 MG which is roughly 2% of all the water supplied to the District. Between January and April of 2017, the well has pumped 0.481 MG which is about 1% of the water supplied to the District during that period.

Although the State of Texas and the U.S. EPA have no limit for Chromium 6, the limit for Chromium 6 in the State of California is 10 ppb. Although this limit is not applicable to the District, Fort Bend County MUD 2’s test results are within this limit. For additional questions about Chromium 6, please contact the District operator at 281-290-3107.