

2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Regional Utilities Water System

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water from eight Regional Utilities wells with two interconnects with the City of Freeport and South Walton Utility Co. The wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required is chlorine for disinfection purposes.

In 2009 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on South Walton, Freeport, and Regional Utilities systems. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the drinking water wells. There are eleven potential sources of contamination identified for South Walton and five for Freeport. Both Freeport's and South Walton's assessment results were found to be moderate to low. There were no potential sources of contamination found near any of Regional Utilities well sites. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Melissa Pilcher, General Manager, or Jason Reddick, Superintendent of Water Operations, at (850) 231-5114. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please contact our office at the above number between the hours of 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday or attend a board meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5:00PM.

Regional Utilities Water System routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2010. Data obtained before January 1, 2010, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

“ND” means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - measure of the radioactivity in water.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

2010 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants – Compilation of sampling by Freeport, Regional Utilities, and South Walton Utilities							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	1/08 through 11/09	N	3.7	ND-3.7	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	1/08 through 11/09	N	1.1	ND-1.1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants – Compilation of sampling by Freeport, Regional Utilities, and South Walton Utilities							
Barium (ppm)	1/08 through 11/09	N	0.026	0.008-0.026	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (ppm)	1/08 through 11/09	N	0.2	ND-0.2	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	1/08 through 11/09	N	2	ND-2	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Sodium (ppm)	1/08 through 11/09	N	6	ND-6	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Arsenic (ppb)	1/08 through 11/09	N	1	ND-1	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	1/08 through 11/09	N	0.2	ND-0.2	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides-Compilation of sampling by Freeport, Regional Utilities and South Walton Utilities

Di(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate (ppb)	1/08 through 11/09	N	1.15 (avg)	ND-1.15	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
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Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Contaminants – Sampled by Regional Utilities

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan-Dec 2010	N	1.09	0.97-1.40	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	July 2010	N	3.0	2.6-3.2	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	July 2010	N	6.125	5.2-7.8	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
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Lead and Copper (Tap Water) – Sampled by Regional Utilities

Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun-Sep 2008	N	0.24	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun-Sep 2008	N	2	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Secondary Contaminants –Compilation of sampling by Freeport, Regional Utilities and South Walton Utilities							
Odor (threshold odor number)	1/08 through 11/09	Y	4	ND-4	NA	3	Naturally occurring organics

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standards for secondary contaminants, and has determined that odor is an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. Odor was sampled at the City of Freeport point of entry in June 2008, and was found in a higher level than is allowed by the State. Odor is a secondary contaminant and does not pose a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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.

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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.*
- (D) *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 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 EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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. Regional Utilities 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Regional Utilities Water System would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.