

Microbiological Contaminants - Charlotte County Utilities

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Highest Monthly Percentage	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	1/08-12/08	No	2% (in 8/08)	0	For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month, presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment

Note: Highest Monthly Percentage is the highest monthly percentage of positive samples for systems collecting at least 40 samples per month.

Turbidity Contaminants - Peace River Authority (PR/MRWSA)

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Single Highest Meas.	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Turbidity (NTU)	01/08-12/08	No	.46	100	N/A	1.0	Soil runoff

Note: The result in the Lowest Monthly Percentage column is the lowest monthly percentage of samples reported in the Monthly Operating Report meeting the required turbidity limits.

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms, including bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Secondary Contaminants - Peace River Authority

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1/08-12/08	Yes*	660	324-660	N/A	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

*The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection has issued an Emergency Order related to the current drought which allows us to exceed 500 ppm until the drought is over or until March 12, 2010, whichever comes first. There are no health effects from this exceedance.

Customers with special health concerns: 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 for infections and 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800.426.4791.

System Improvements: In 2008, CCU completed construction of an interconnect with the Englewood Water District; completed replacement of several steel water line bridge crossings; completed upgrades to the water storage tanks at the Rotonda and Gulf Cove water booster stations; and began rehabilitation of the Walenda, Port Charlotte Golf Course and Gulf Cove booster stations, which will be completed in 2009.

In August 2008, CCU was cited for failure to maintain the minimum disinfection in the distribution system in South Gulf Cove. This issue was resolved through a consent order with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The County has begun additional monitoring and flushing in this area. In addition, several water main crossings shall be replaced and new water mains constructed in order to increase the flow into this area. Additional corrective actions will be taken as needed to maintain the disinfection level. Bacteria testing in this area has not shown any positive results and the water remains safe to drink.

What can I expect to find in my drinking water?

Sources of drinking water (tap and bottled) 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:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

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.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential use.

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.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

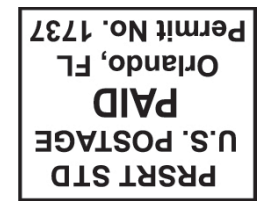
In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

Distributed by Charlotte County Government



of life and our children's future. sources, which are the heart of our water family with clean, quality water this year. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you for tasting in the region in an American Water Works Association Taste Test. impartial judges declared your drinking water the best quality award-winning water. In March 2008, a panel of When you drink CCU tap water, you're drinking clean, water meets or exceeds all standards and expectations. CCU employees work around the clock to ensure your services we have delivered to you over the past year. This annual Drinking Water Quality Report is an opportunity to provide you with details of the drinking water and Dear Valued Customer:

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UTILITIES TEAM



Charlotte County Utilities
2550 Harbor View Road, Unit 1
Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2500



Water Quality Report

2008



Charlotte County Utilities



2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Charlotte County Utilities Public Drinking Water System - PWS #5084100

The Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) oversees the operations of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Facility (PRMRWSF), which uses the Peace River as its source of supply. The Peace River is a large river, by Florida standards, with a drainage area of 2,300

square miles. Its headwaters originate in the Green Swamp of northern Polk County, flowing through Lake Hancock, the Winter Haven chain of lakes and Lake Hamilton. The mouth of the Peace River is located in Punta Gorda, 120 miles downstream from the headwaters, delivering needed fresh water to the Charlotte Harbor estuary. The PR/MRWSA sells water to Charlotte County, the City of North Port, DeSoto County, Manatee County and Sarasota County.

The PR/MRWSA and Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table in this brochure shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. These same regulations require monitoring to occur in nine-year compliance cycles, made up of three, three-year compliance periods. These three-year periods result in some contaminants being monitored once every three years. This testing analysis may require some contaminant test results to be reported in this document from years other than calendar year 2008. We have learned that through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have questions about the data provided in this annual Drinking Water Quality Report or require additional information, please contact our representative, Stephen Kipfinger, at 941.764.4300. To learn more, please attend any of the PR/MRWSA Board of Director meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon, and rotate between the County Commission Chambers of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties. For information on a specific meeting, please visit www.regionalwater.org/schedule.html or call the PR/MRWSA at 941.316.1776.

Source Water Assessment Plan: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2008. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the Peace River Regional Water Supply surface water intakes. Potential sources of contamination that were identified include underground petroleum storage tanks and wastewater treatment plants. The risk level is considered to be high. Assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Web site at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

HOW DO I READ THIS? It's easy. The table to the right shows the results of our water quality analyses. The "Level Detected" column shows the highest results from the most recent tests. "Likely Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. As you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations in this table, 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 that, if exceeded, triggers additional 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 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.
- **NA:** Not applicable.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** The measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L):** One part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample, which corresponds to one minute in two years or a penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L):** One part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample, which corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** Measure of the radioactivity in water.

Did you know? CCU staff is responsible for the operation and maintenance of:

- A 138-square-mile service area
- 6 treatment facilities
- More than 55,500 water customer connections
- Nearly 33,000 wastewater customer connections
- Nearly 1,500 miles of water mains
- More than 4,300 fire hydrants
- Over 15,400 water main valves
- 295 wastewater lift stations
- Nearly 9,500 manholes
- More than 800 miles of wastewater mains



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. We thank you for understanding.

Drinking Water Test Results

Radiological Contaminants - Peace River Authority (PR/MRWSA)

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1/08 4/08, 7/08, 10/08	No	6.0	0-6.0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	1/08, 4/08, 7/08, 10/08	No	1.3	1.1-1.3	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants - Peace River Authority (PR/MRWSA)

Barium (ppm)	7/08	No	0.028	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppm)	7/08	No	0.0070	N/A	0.2	0.2	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	7/08	No	2.0	N/A	N/A	15	Residue from manmade pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing and solder
Fluoride (ppm)	7/08	No	0.173	N/A	4	4	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
Nickel (ppm)	7/08	No	0.00118	N/A	N/A	0.1	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	1/08, 4/08, 7/08, 10/08	No	.462	0.066-0.462	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; septic tank leaching; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	1/08, 4/08, 7/08, 10/08	No	0.005	0.003-0.005	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppm)	7/08	No	0.00157	N/A	0.05	0.05	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	7/08	No	71.9	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

Level Detected: Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants and inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water at the MCL level every day for a lifetime for a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproduct (D/DBP) Parameters - Charlotte County Utilities

Chloramines (ppm)	01/08-12/08	No	2.5	0.6-5.84	MRDLG = 4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	1/08-12/08	No	22.9	1.0-60.7	N/A	MCL=60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (total trihalo-methanes) (ppb)	1/08-12/08	No	48.48	25.8-64	N/A	MCL=80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper - Charlotte County Utilities

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Level Detected	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of sites exceeding AL	Likely Source of Contaminant
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	06/07	No	0.3146	1.3	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	06/07	No	4.6	15	0	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead: 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. CCU 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 two 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 Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

(continued)