Charlotte County Utilities
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Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2500

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CCU MISSION STATEMENT

To provide products and services of uncompromising value to the community by operating a public utility system that is economically sound, environmentally responsible, operationally reliable, and customer responsive.

VISION STATEMENT

To become a World-Class Utility by exceeding customer expectations in fiscal responsibility, customer service, water quality and environmental protection.

VALUE STATEMENT

Community commitment to enhance the quality of life for Charlotte County.

The Utility, a department of the County, also follows Charlotte County's mission statement that is: *To Exceed Expectations in the Delivery of Public Service.*

This handout is based on the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regulations that were published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The CCR rule is the first EPA rule that addresses the public's right-to-know provisions of the 1996 SDWA Amendments

2003 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Charlotte County Utilities Public Drinking Water System PWS # 5084100

Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services CCU delivers to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. It is important to us that you understand our commitment to ensuring and improving water quality and the protection of our water resources.

The Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) 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, having a drainage area of 2,300 square miles. The Peace River 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 PRMRWSA presently sells water to Charlotte County, the City of North Port, DeSoto County, Manatee County and Sarasota County.

The PRMRWSA 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, 2003 to December 31, 2003. These same regulations require monitoring to occur in 9-year compliance cycles, made up of three 3-year compliance periods. These 3-year compliance 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 2003. We have learned that through our monitoring and testing, some constituents have been detected.

If you have any questions about the data provided in this Consumer Confidence Report/Annual Drinking Water Quality Report or require additional information concerning the PRMRWSA, please contact our representative ***Terrence Briggs at 941-764 - 4300***. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the PRMRWSA Board of Director meetings. These meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month and rotated between the County Commission Chambers of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee or Sarasota Counties from 10 am to noon. For information on a specific meeting, please contact our office.

Source Water Assessment Plan—A statewide source water assessment project is under way by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and includes the Peace River basin. This assessment will result in a "*SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT*". These assessments will identify and assess any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our water supply. A Source Water Assessment for our system should be completed by October 2004 and a report will be available at the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program web site: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp. The PRMRWSA will provide annually, as part of the Consumer Confidence Report Annual Drinking Water Quality Data, an update on the FDEP Water Source Assessment and Protection Program.

HOW DO I READ THIS?

It's easy. The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. The column marked "Level Detected" shows the highest results from the last time tests were performed. "Likely Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. Descriptions below explain other important details. In this table you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

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.

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.*

"N/A" : *Means not applicable*

"ND" *means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.*

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): *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 1 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 1 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.*

Treatment Technique (TT): *A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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.

Water Quality Test Results— 2003

Turbidity Contaminants – Peace River Authority (PRMRWSA)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sample (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	The Highest Single Measurement	The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	1/03-12/03	N	0.92	100 %	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

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

Radiological Contaminants—Peace River Authority (PRMRWSA)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	1/02-12/02	N	6.9	(1.0-6.9)	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	1/02-12/02	N	2.5	(0.8-2.5)	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants—Peace River Authority (PRMRWSA)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	1/03-12/03	N	0.025	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/03-12/03	N	0.27	N/A	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	Quarterly	N	0.71	(0.134-0.71)	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	Quarterly	N	0.03	(0.01-0.03)	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	1/03-12/03	N	38.0	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Lead and Copper – Charlotte County Utilities

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	No. of sampling sites exceeding AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	1/01-12/01	N	0.028	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

** Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic 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.

Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters – Charlotte County 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
Chloramines (ppm)	03,06,09, +12/03	N	3.6	3.2-4.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	03,06,09, +12/03	N	35	23-47	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total triha-lomethanes) (ppb)	03,06,09, +12/03	N	41	33-51	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	**Dates of sampling (mo/yr)**	**TT Violation Y/N**	**Lowest Removal Ratio**	**Range of Results**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Total Organic Carbon (PRMRWSA) **(ppm)**	01/03-12/03	N	1.2	1.2-1.4	N/A	TT Removal Ratio = 1 or more	Naturally present in the environment

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. **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 (1-800-426-4791).**

*We at **Charlotte County Utilities** 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. We ask that all customers help us protect our water sources which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide 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.*

Improvements to Facilities in 2003

- Cleaning, refurbishment, and interior coating of three booster stations was completed in early 2003.
- Security fencing at our booster station was started in late 2003.
- Vulnerability Assessment was completed & submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early 2003.
- Emergency Response Plan was completed & submitted to the EPA in late 2003.
- Installed a new 100 H.P. High Service Pump and Variable Frequency Drive at one of our booster stations in late 2003.
- Acquisition of the Florida Water Services, Deep Creek Service Area was completed on December 12, 2003.

New Improvements Planned and System Upgrades in 2004

- Security fencing improvements were completed by early 2004 at three of our booster facilities.
- Booster stations' conversion to Liquid Bleach for disinfection planned for 2004-2005.
- Cleaning and inspection of one booster station was completed in early 2004.
- Water Model Master Plan is being implemented in 2004.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO FIND IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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) ***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.*
(B) ***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.*
(C) ***Pesticides and herbicides****,* which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
(D) ***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.