



Charlotte County Utilities  
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 Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2500

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**A MESSAGE FROM  
 YOUR UTILITIES DIRECTOR**

*David G. Schlobohm*

Dear Valued Customer:

This Annual Water Quality Report affords us the opportunity to make you aware of the high quality water that flows from your tap. Not only is your drinking water of high quality, as evidenced by this document, it has also been recognized as one of the best-tasting in the state by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association.

We already know you appreciate the value of water, as most of our customers are extremely conservation-minded. Because of you, Charlotte County Utilities is among the leaders in per-capita water usage, with some of the lowest usage numbers in the state.

We thank you for your continued efforts to conserve water, one of our most precious natural resources. Thanks to the efforts of our hard-working and dedicated CCU employees, you can be confident that this clean, safe, reliable and award-winning drinking water will continue to be available at your tap and at your command.



**Charlotte County Utilities**

*Voted*  
**Florida's  
 3rd Best Tasting  
 Drinking Water**  
*Florida Section American  
 Water Works Association  
 5th Annual  
 Drinking Water Taste Test  
 Tallahassee, Fla.*

**2005  
 Water Quality Report**



# 2005 Consumer Confidence/Annual Water Quality Report

## Charlotte County Utilities Public Drinking Water System #5084100

**C**harlotte County Utilities (CCU) is proud to offer our customers this Annual Water Quality Report, designed to inform you about the water and services we deliver to you every day. All information contained in this report has been collected and reported in accordance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This handout is based on the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regulations that are published by the USEPA. The CCR rule is the first EPA rule that addresses the public's right-to-know provisions of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments.

CCU receives its water from the *Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority* (PRMRWSA), which oversees the operations of the *Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Facility* (PRMRWSF), and uses the Peace River as its source of supply. The PRMRWSA presently sells water to Charlotte County, the City of North Port, DeSoto County, Manatee County and Sarasota County. The Peace River is a large river by Florida standards, having a drainage area of 2,300 square miles, with headwaters originating in the Green Swamp of northern Polk County. It flows 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 headwaters that deliver


much needed fresh water to the Charlotte Harbor estuary.

If you have any questions about the data provided in this Annual Drinking Water Quality Report or require additional information concerning the PRMRWSA, please contact CCU representative Stephen Kipfinger 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, held on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon, rotated between the County Commission Chambers of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. For meeting information, visit [www.regionalwater.org/schedule.html](http://www.regionalwater.org/schedule.html) or call (941) 316-1776.

**Source Water Assessment Plan** The Department of Environmental Protection has performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. 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. Assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program web site at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

**HOW DO I READ THIS?** In the table to the right, you will find the results of our water quality analysis. You may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. For example, the column marked "Level Detected" shows the highest results from the last time tests were performed. "Likely Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. To help you better understand these terms, we are providing you with the following abbreviations and 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" :** Not applicable.
- **"ND":** Not detected, indicating 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.



**C**harlotte County Utilities (CCU) routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water, according to Federal and State laws. The table to the right shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005. Data obtained before January 1, 2005, and presented in this report, is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations. The employees of CCU work hard, seven days a week and 24 hours per day, to provide your family with clean, reliable, award-winning drinking water each and every day.



## Drinking Water Test Results Table

### Turbidity Contaminants — Peace River Authority (PRMRWSA)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting regulatory limits*	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	1/05-12/05	N	.55	98.2	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

\* Based on 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. Monitoring turbidity 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	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	1/05-12/05	N	1.0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (pCi/l)	1/05-12/05	N	1.2	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	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	1/05-12/05	N	0.0072	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1/05-12/05	N	0.363	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	Quarterly	N	1.15	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	Quarterly	N	0.03	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	1/05-12/05	N	41.2	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Cyanide (ppb)	1/05-12/05	N	6	N/A	200	Some people who drink water containing cyanide well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience nerve damage or problems with their thyroid

### 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 the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	1/04-12/04	N	0.426	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	1/04-12/04	N	3.0	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

*(table cont.)* →

**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 every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

**For customers with special health concerns:** 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.

**Facility Improvements:** The CCU Rotonda water booster changed from a chlorine gas to a sodium hypochlorite feed system, and upgraded to an automatic feed system for ammonia. CCU installed three automatic flushing units in the distribution system, to maintain disinfection residuals.

**Some of CCU's Planned System Upgrades for 2006:** CCU's Gulf Cove and Rotonda water booster storage tanks are scheduled to be pressure cleaned, repaired and externally painted. Additionally, plans are in place for a tank mixing system to be installed in the Rotonda water booster tank, and to install a sodium hypochlorite and ammonia booster to help serve customers in the South Gulf Cove area.

## Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproduct (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)	1/05-12/05	N	3.0	.5-4.6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	03, 05, 09 and 12/05	N	17	range: 1-29	N/A	MCL = 60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	03, 05, 09 and 12/05	N	34	range: 28-38	N/A	MCL = 80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

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

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	1/05-12/05	N	1.29	1.29-1.48	N/A	TT Removal Ratio = 1 or more	Naturally present in the environment

- **Level Detected:** 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.
- **Lead:** Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community, as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
- **On Nov. 16, 2005** CCU failed to provide the required amount of disinfection within the distribution system near the Rotonda area. This violation was immediately corrected by flushing the area water lines and there were no health effects. The violation was later resolved with the Department of Environmental Protection through a Consent Order.

### 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:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage 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 uses.

**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.

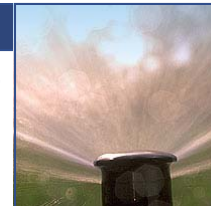
**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. 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.

## Water Conservation: It’s Up to You

*Charlotte County Utilities’ year-round watering restrictions are still in effect, and lawn irrigation systems continue to account for the largest residential water usage outside the home. Your family can conserve water by continuing to observe these restrictions and irrigating only on your assigned day:*

- Addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) may water their lawns on **Tuesday ONLY**
- Addresses ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may water their lawns on **Sunday ONLY**
- Irrigation **is not permitted** during peak hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **ON ANY DAY**



*Watering restrictions apply to all irrigation systems, including wells, canals, public and private utilities. Hand-watering is permitted on any day and exceptions are provided for new plantings. We do ask that customers use a flow-regulating nozzle on all hoses and limit heavy water usage (such as filling pools, large loads of laundry and car washing) during the peak hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This helps us maintain optimal water pressure throughout the system and throughout the day. Your water conservation efforts will also help you recognize savings on your monthly utility bill. For more information on Charlotte County Utilities watering restrictions and conservation tips, visit our Web site at [www.charlottefl.com](http://www.charlottefl.com) and click on **Water and Sewer**, or call (941) 764-4300. All of us at CCU thank you for supporting water conservation.*