2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

NORTH SUMTER UTILITIES

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM PWS # 6605012

PREPARED AND OPERATED BY CH2MHILL

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 follow the Federal and State requirements and 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 groundwater from wells which draw water from the Floridan Aquifer and is then chlorinated for disinfection purposes prior to distribution to our customers. In 2012, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near our wells. The results of the Assessment are available from the FDEP web site @ http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the utility office at (352) 753-1756.

The North Sumter Utilities Water System, which as of December 31, 2012 had 23,693 service connections, 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, 2012. Data obtained before January 1, 2012, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the Federal and State 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. MRDLG's 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.

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

Radioactive Contaminants							
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**
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	2/2011	N	2.9	1.1-2.9	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	2/2011	N	2.3	ND-2.3	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
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**
Arsenic (ppb)	6/2011	N	1.3	1.1-1.3	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	0.0125	0.00964-0.0125	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	9/2012 10/2012	N	3.20	1.15-3.20	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	1.08	0.580-1.08	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	9/2012 10/2012	N	3.15	2.02-3.15	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Sodium (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	4.82	4.18-4.82	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
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**
Xylenes (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	0.0237	ND-0.0237	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	**Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)**	**MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N**	**Level Detected**	**Range of Results**	**MCLG or MRDLG**	**MCL or MRDL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Chlorine (ppm)	1/2012-12/2012	N	1.44	1.35-1.59	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	7/2012 11/2012	N	20.1	6.62-20.1	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	9/2012 11/2012	N	13.4	4.03-13.4	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	**Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)**	**AL Violation Y/N**	**90th Percentile Result**	**No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL**	**MCLG**	**AL (Action Level)**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/2011	N	0.0676	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/2011	N	1.33	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants							
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**
Chloride (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	12.7	11.9-12.7	250	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Copper (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	0.00545	0.00486-0.00545	1	1	Corrosion byproduct and natural occurrence from soil leaching
Iron (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	0.129	0.0271-0.129		0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Zinc (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	0.0146	ND-0.0146	5	5	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Sulfate (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	109	70.2-109	250	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	9/2012 10/2012	N	426	330-426	500	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all Federal and State requirements. The table in this report lists all of the drinking water contaminants we detected in 2012. In 2012, we tested for over 100 possible contaminants in your drinking water. Contaminants tested for included, inorganic, volatile organic and synthetic organic contaminants as required by the EPA and FDEP agencies, for groundwater supply systems.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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.

Nitrates: As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

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. The North Sumter Utilities Water System 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 at your own expense. 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).

"We at the North Sumter Utilities/CH2M HILL work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap," said Russ Vaughn. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call (352) 753-1756.