

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

NORTH SUMTER UTILITIES

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM PWS # 6605012

PREPARED AND OPERATED BY OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC. (OMI)

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 2008, 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 well. 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, 2008 had 16,013 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, 2008. Data obtained before January 1, 2008, 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.

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 from the Stage 2 DBPR.

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Microbiological Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage /Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	1/2008-12/2008	N	0	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment	
Radiological 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
5. Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	1/2008	N	1.57	1.0-2.4	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
6. Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	1/2008	N	1.0	ND-1.3	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
8. Antimony (ppb)	1/2008	N	1.77	ND-2.53	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

9. Arsenic (ppb)	1/2008	N	1.23	1.22-1.23	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
11. Barium (ppm)	1/2008	N	0.008	0.00682-0.00841	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Chromium (ppb)	1/2008	N	6.67	6.49-6.85	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
18. Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	1/2008	N	0.068	ND-0.119	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
19. Nickel (ppb)	1/2008	N	1.36	1.29-1.42	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
20. Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	1/2008	N	1.5	1.29-1.71	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
22. Selenium (ppb)	1/2008	N	8.7	6.79-10.6	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
23. Sodium (ppm)	1/2008	N	4.58	4.54-4.62	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

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
78. Chlorine (ppm)	1/2008-12/2008	N	1.23	1.09-1.31	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
79. Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	7/2008	N	4.15	1.65-6.65	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
80. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	7/2008	N	6.875	4.48-9.27	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
84. Copper (tap water) (ppm)	6/2008	N	0.030	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
85. Lead (tap water) (ppb)	6/2008	N	1.25	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
2. Chloride (ppm)	1/2008	N	10.5	10.1-11.0	250	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
4. Copper (ppm)	1/2008	N	0.02	0.00564-0.0245	1	1	Corrosion byproduct and natural occurrence from soil leaching
10. Silver (ppm)	1/2008	N	0.014	.00515-.0222	0.1	0.1	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
11. Zinc (ppm)	1/2008	N	0.023	ND-0.0359	5	5	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
12. Sulfate (ppm)	1/2008	N	17.9	16.8-18.9	250	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
13. Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1/2008	N	147	138-156	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 2008. In 2008, 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 Utility/OMI 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.