ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023

Presented By

Farm Hill Utilities Inc.

PWS ID#: 1170259

Introduction

We are 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 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.

Farm Hill Utilities routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. Except where indicated, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, are from the most recent testing done, in accordance with regulations.

You can find a list of terms used in this report, with their definitions and any abbreviations, in the Definitions section following the tables.

Additional Information

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing 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 our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

A capital improvement fee is assessed to each account monthly for system upgrades such as upgraded meters, water line improvements, and water tank and well maintenance to improve the water system and benefit all customers.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use four to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Important Health Information

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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

Questions?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Shaun Condon or Shane Wiley at (850) 968-2573.

BY THE NUMBERS

5.1 TRILLION
The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.

12 THOUSAND
The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.

47.5 TRILLION
The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.

1.7 TRILLION
The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.

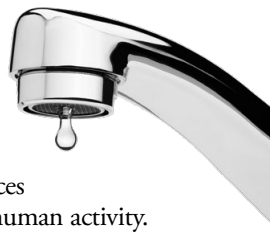
33%
The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.

2
How often in minutes a water main breaks.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated one potential source of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/.

Substances That Could Be in 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 the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Public Meetings

Our regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at our office, located at 120 Madrid Road, Cantonment. January meetings begin at 5:00 p.m., except for our annual meeting, which is held on the third Thursday in January at 6:00 p.m.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

Detected Contaminants

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	August & September 2017	No	0.6	NA	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 [combined radium] (pCi/L)	November 14–August 2017	No	0.5	NA	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Inorganic Contaminants

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Barium (ppm)	Aug–23	No	0.014	0.009–0.014	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	July–20	No	3.0	ND–3.0	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Lead [point of entry] (ppb)	Aug–23	No	2.2	0.5–2.2	NA	15	Residue from human-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nitrate [as nitrogen] (ppm)	Aug–23	No	0.29	0.1–0.29	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Aug–23	No	4.0	3.6–4.0	NA	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan–Dec 23	No	0.97	0.96–0.99	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5]–Stage 2 (ppb)	Sep–23	No	1.2	NA	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community)							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	YEAR SAMPLED	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	Jan–Dec 23	No	0.49	0 of 20	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	Jan–Dec 23	No	0.21	0 of 20	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Where Does My Water Come From?

Farm Hill Utilities customers are fortunate because we enjoy an abundant water supply from three wells. The wells draw from a sand-and-gravel aquifer. Due to the excellent quality of our water, the only treatments required are chlorine for disinfection and lime for softening.

Think Before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit https://bit.ly/3IeRyXy.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.