

2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Northwest Florida Water System, Inc

Ensuring Your Water is Safe

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We routinely monitor 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, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

Your Water Source

Your water is obtained from two groundwater sources which draw from the Floridan Aquifer. The water is then aerated and filtered to reduce iron and hydrogen sulfide for odor control, then chlorinated for disinfection purposes.

Source Water Assessment

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. Information provided by this assessment indicated no potential sources of contamination near our wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at: www.prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp

How to Reach Us

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact U.S. Water Services Corporation at (727) 848-8292. We encourage our valued customer to be informed about their water utility.

Important Health Information:

For Customer 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).

About Lead

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 Woods Utility Company 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. 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>.

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About Your Drinking Water

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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**.

HOW TO READ THE TABLE

In the table accompanying this report you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. The following definitions are provided to assist you with understanding the report.

Important 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 or AL:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **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.
- **ND:** Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Picocurie per Liter (pCi/L):** Measure of the radioactivity in water.

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Water Quality Testing Results

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
Barium (ppm)	03/2021	N	0.0051	0.0051 – 0.0051	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	03/2021	N	2.0	2.0 – 2.0	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS							
Disinfectant or 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
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2023	N	0.72	0.41 – 1.6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/2021	N	25.9	N/A	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
For chlorine and disinfection by-products, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA) of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.							

Microbiological Contaminants						
Contaminant	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Total Number of Positive Samples for the Year	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
E. coli **	Feb 23	N	1	0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is E. coli positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli	Human and animal fecal waste
On Feb 6, 2023, we sampled the sources (Well 1 and Well 2) for the fecal indicator, E. coli. We were notified on Feb 9, 2023 that Well 2 tested positive for E. coli. Well 2 was taken off-line until satisfactory samples were received. On Feb 9, 2023, we took five additional samples and were notified on Feb 14, 2023 that zero of the five samples were positive for E. Coli. Because all check samples were absent of E. coli, no MCL violation was given to Northwest Florida Water System.						

LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	09/2023	N	0.0585	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water)(ppb)	09/2023	N	2.3	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits