

ST. LUCIE COUNTY UTILITIES NORTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND WATER SYSTEM PWS ID# 4560971

2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúscalo ó líable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking 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. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this report, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

St. Lucie County Utilities purchases water from Ft. Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA). The source is ground water which is withdrawn from wells in the Floridan and Surficial Aquifers. The water is treated by conventional lime softening, aeration, and sand filtration and also reverse osmosis. The water is then disinfected, and fluoride is added to prevent tooth decay prior to delivery to customers.

HOW WE ENSURE YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements. St. Lucie County Utilities and FPUA 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. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old but are based on the most recent water analyses performed.

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

The terms used in the water quality summary table other parts of this report are defined below.

Action level (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 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 – means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

ppm – parts per million or milligrams per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample.

ppb – parts per billion or micrograms per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

HOW TO REACH US

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact St. Lucie County Utilities at 772-462-1150. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioner meetings. They are normally held each month on the 1st Tuesday at 6 pm and the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday at 9 am at the County Commission Chambers.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PLAN

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on the FPUA system in 2023. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination near the FPUA wells. There are 20 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low to moderate 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>

FPUA has built treatment systems as a result of those potential sources of contamination.

2023 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY TABLE – PWS ID NO. 4560971

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation Y/N	Result	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination	
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	01/23 – 12/23	N	Positive	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	
One coliform sample taken on 5/8/23 was present for coliform. Repeat samples taken on 5/10/23 were negative.							
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
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	01/23 – 12/23	N	0.82	0.17 - 0.82	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	01/23 – 12/23	N	0.32 l*	ND - 0.32 l*	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	04/2023	N	34.8	34.8 – 34.8	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Di(2-ethylexy)phthalate (ppb)	04/23 – 06/23	N	0.84 l*	0.72 - 0.84 l*	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.
Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Chlorine and chloramines (ppm)	1/23 – 12/23	N	2.59	1.30 – 3.50	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	07/2023	N	24.10	21.10 – 24.10	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5s (Haloacetic acids) (five) (ppb)	07/2023	N	19.70	17.50 – 19.70	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	10/2021	N	0.0573	0	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb) ^B	10/2021	N	1.0	0	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR5)				
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	Average Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	3.8	3.5 – 4.0	PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of consumer products and industrial applications including non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, electroplating, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals and in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the United States and the world.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	3.6	3.4 – 3.7	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	5.1	5.0 – 5.1	
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	4.4	4.3 – 4.5	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	8.9	5.7 – 12.0	
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (ppt)	03/23 – 07/23	4.0	3.8 – 4.2	
<p>EPA fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule: The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2021. UCMR5 requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025. UCMR 5 will provide new data that will improve the agency's understanding of the frequency that 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium are found in the nation's drinking water systems, and at what levels. The monitoring data on PFAS and lithium will help the EPA make determinations about future regulations and other actions to protect public health under the SDWA. We are required to publish the analytical results of detected unregulated contaminants in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule and UCMR5, please visit www.epa.gov/dwucmr/learn-about-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.</p>				
* "I" qualifier indicates the reported value is between the laboratory method detection limit and the laboratory practical quantitation limit.				

TABLE NOTES:

- Results in the level detected column for inorganic contaminants and synthetic inorganic contaminants trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids are the highest average detected at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency. The result in the level detected column for chlorine and chloramines is the highest running annual average, computed quarterly, of the monthly averages of all samples collected. The result in the level detected column for copper and lead is the 90th percentile of all sample results for the most recent round of sampling. The range of results is the range of lowest to highest results at the individual sampling sites.
- 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 St. Lucie County North Hutchinson Island 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. 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>.