

Continuing Our Commitment

Once again, Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc., is proud to present our annual water quality report. This edition covers all testing completed from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mark Cross, Manager, at (850) 455-8552.



Community Participation

Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc., is dedicated to working with consumers who want to voice an opinion or concern, inquire about the water quality, and encourage excellence in our organization. We offer various means of communication, including telephone, facsimile, e-mail, and in-person meetings. If you have any questions concerning your drinking water quality or your utility company, please contact Mark Cross at (850) 455-8552 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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.

How Is My Water Treated and Purified?

Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc.’s methods and practices of treating and purifying water conform to the Department of Environmental Protection’s, Chapter 62-550 Drinking Water Standards, Monitoring, and Reporting. Our treatment processes consist of a series of steps. First, the raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to the treatment facilities. Second, the water then goes to a mixing/contact area where specific chemicals are added to meet state and federal requirements. Hydrated lime is added for pH adjustment, chlorine (gas) is added for disinfection, and a corrosion inhibitor is added to assist in protecting the distribution system pipes. In addition, we have incorporated two sets of granular-activated carbon filters at our Well 3 and Well 5 treatment facilities to assist in the removal of man-made contaminants. Third, after the water has completed the purification process, it is pumped into storage facilities and/or your home or business.

Exciting News

Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc. is currently developing and designing a Web site for our customers. This will provide many of our customers with benefits such as 24-hour customer billing information, online bill paying, helpful information, a list of current work projects, water quality information, etc. We expect our site to be available for access by December 2007 (<http://www.peopleswaterservice.com>). For additional information, please contact Mr. Mark Cross, Manager, at (850) 455-8552.

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our customers are fortunate because they enjoy an abundant water supply. We currently have five water treatment plants, which pump water from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer. The aquifer is estimated to be 6,500 square miles and is used by many utility companies in southern Alabama and along the Florida Panhandle. Our treatment facilities provided one billion gallons of water for the year. That is an average of 85 million each month or 2.8 million gallons each day of clean drinking water delivered to customers’ homes or businesses. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) conducted a statewide assessment of public drinking water systems in 2004. Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc. was not assessed at that time.

Substances That Might Be in Drinking 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, or wildlife;
- **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, residential uses;
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from 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 gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be 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. Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Proudly Presented By:

PEOPLES
WATER SERVICE
COMPANY OF
FLORIDA, INC.

ANNUAL
WATER
QUALITY
REPORT

Water testing performed in 2006



PWS ID#: 1170527

Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but can also save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc. Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.

You can conserve outdoors as well:

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.

Sampling Results

During the past year, Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc. has taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows data obtained before January 1, 2007; this report shows the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. Although all of the substances listed are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Peoples Water Service Company of Florida, Inc. has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) determine the occurrence of UCs in drinking water and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS ¹							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	HIGHEST MONTHLY PERCENTAGE/NUMBER		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform Bacteria (% positive samples)	Jan-Dec 06	No	4.0%		0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	Feb-Mar 02	No	0.8	0.6–0.8	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 [Combined Radium] (pCi/L)	Feb-Mar 02	No	3.0	1.9–3.0	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Arsenic (ppb)	Feb 05	No	5.0	ND–5.0	NA	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (MFL)	May 02	No	1.0	NA	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	Mar 06	No	1.61	ND–1.61	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	Mar 06	No	0.1	ND–0.1	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	Feb 05	No	6.0	ND–6.0	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	Jan-Dec 05	No	33	ND–33	NA	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Chlorobenzene (ppb) chemical factories	Jan-Dec 06	No	0.027	ND–0.027	100	100	Discharge from chemical and agricultural
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	Jan-Dec 06	No	1.78	ND–2.53	0	3	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
TTHMS AND STAGE 1 DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT (D/DBP) PARAMETERS ²							
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan-Dec 06	No	0.61	0.52–0.67	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5] (ppb)	Jul 06	No	4.98	4.0–6.8	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Jul 06	No	7.18	3.5–9.5	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED FROM SITES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.)							
CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	Jun 04	No	0.359	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	Jun 04	No	1.0	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ Results in the *Level Detected* column for radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

² For the following contaminants and disinfectant residuals monitored under Stage 1 D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the highest annual average (running annual average [RAA]) of the quarterly averages: chlorine, haloacetic Acids, andTTHM (MCL 80 ppb). The *Range of Results* column shows the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites, including IDSE results.



What Causes the Pink Stain on Bathroom Fixtures?

The reddish-pink and sometimes dark gray color frequently noted in bathrooms on shower stalls, tubs, tile, toilets, sinks, toothbrush holders, and on pets’ water bowls is caused by the growth of the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*. *Serratia* is commonly isolated from soil, water, plants, insects, and vertebrates (including man). The bacteria can be introduced into the house through any of the above-mentioned sources. The bathroom provides a perfect environment (moist and warm) for bacteria to thrive.

The best solution to this problem is to continually clean and dry the involved surfaces to keep them free from bacteria. Chlorine-based compounds work best, but keep in mind that abrasive cleaners may scratch fixtures making them more susceptible to bacterial growth. Chlorine bleach can be used periodically to disinfect the toilet and help to eliminate the occurrence of the pink residue. Keeping bathtubs and sinks wiped down using a solution that contains chlorine will also help to minimize its occurrence.

Serratia will not survive in chlorinated drinking water.

Table Definitions

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.

MFL (million fibers per liter): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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).

Is it Safe to Drink Water From a Garden Hose?

Substances used in vinyl garden hoses to keep them flexible can get into the water as it passes through the hose. These chemicals are not good for you nor are they good for your pets. Allow the water to run for a short time in order to flush the hose before drinking or filling your pets’ drinking containers. There are hoses made with food-grade plastic that will not contaminate the water. Check your local hardware store for this type of hose.

Should I Put a Brick in My Toilet Tank to Save Water?

Toilet flushing uses a lot of water: about 40% of a household’s total water usage. Putting something in the toilet tank that takes up space, like a toilet dam or a water-filled jug, is a good idea but putting a brick in the tank is not a good idea; bricks tend to crumble and might damage your toilet.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has a Web site (www.dep.state.fl.us) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Florida, including valuable information about our watershed.