Annual Water Quality Report

Water Testing Performed in 2023

QUALITY FIRST FROM YOUR HOMETOWN PROVIDER

PARA LOS CLIENTES HISPANOS
Este es un reporte importante sobre la calidad de su agua. Si usted no cuenta con alguien que pueda traducirle este reporte, llame el Departmento de Servicio al Cliente de Fort Pierce Utilities Authority al (772) 466-1600 y con mucho gusto le asistiremos.

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) is committed to providing safe, high quality water to your tap every day. We are vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, community outreach, and education. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing you and your family with quality drinking water. This report is furnished to you pursuant to the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Since 1999, all community water systems are required to provide customers with an annual water quality report.

We are proud to report the water provided by FPUA meets the State of Florida and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations. FPUA tests for a variety of regulated and unregulated compounds to determine if your drinking water meets the SDWA requirements. Review of the tables contained in this report will show your drinking water is of excellent quality. The data presented is from 2023 or the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations for sampling required less frequently.

Please share with us your thoughts about the information in this report. Well-informed customers are our best allies. Additionally, please note we encourage community participation. You are welcome to attend our Board meetings held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at 100 N. U.S. 1 (City Hall), Fort Pierce, Florida. Contact FPUA by calling (772)-466-1600.

OUR WATER SOURCE

FPUA obtains water from two groundwater sources, the Surficial Aquifer and the Floridan Aquifer. Water is pumped from these aquifers to FPUA's Henry Gahn Water Treatment Plant. Water pumped from the Surficial Aquifer, approximately 100 feet below the surface, is treated by conventional lime softening, aeration and sand filtration. Water pumped from the Floridan Aquifer, approximately 1000 feet below the surface, is treated by reverse osmosis. After treatment, the water is chlorinated for disinfection, fluoride is added to aid in dental health, and the two waters are blended before storage. In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 20 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/ or they can be obtained by calling FPUA's Customer Service Department at (772) 466-1600. Additionally, FPUA has built treatment systems as a result of those potential sources of contamination.

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UTILITIES AUTHORITY
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About FPUA: FPUA is a municipal utility provider whose mission is to provide our customers with economical, reliable, and friendly service in a continuous effort to enhance the quality of life in our community. Fort Pierce is one of more than 2,000 communities in the United States served by a community-owned electric utility, and one of very few who also provide water, wastewater, natural gas, and internet services. Public utility systems are owned by the people they serve. All benefits from our locally controlled utility remain right here in the community.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR 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. Fort Pierce Utilities Authority 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health ensure that drinking water from public water systems meets water quality standards for lead (Pb) and copper (Cu). Learn more about public water testing at:

https://floridadep.gov/water/source-drinking-water/content/monitoring-lead-and-copper-florida-drinking-water

CONTAMINANTS

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.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations to limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public drinking water systems. The U.S. 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 (800) 426-4791.

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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 can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The 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 or online at https://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. This report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the definitions to the right of the table.

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
Fluoride (ppm)	01/2023 - 12/2023	N	0.82	0.17 - 0.82	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	01/2023 - 12/2023	N	0.032 I*	ND - 0.032 I*	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposit.
Sodium (ppm)	4/2023	N	34.8	34.8 - 34.8	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion; leaching from soil.

Results for Inorganics in the Level Detected column 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.

Synthetic Organic 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
Di(2-ethylexyl)phthalate (ppb)	04/2023 - 06/2023	N	0.84 I*	0.72 - 0.84 I*	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories.

Results in the Level Detected column for synthetic 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.

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

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
Chloramines (ppm)	1/2023 - 12/2023	N	3.7	1.0 - 4.6	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.

Results for Chloramines in the Level Detected column is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of the 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.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

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
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	1/2023 - 12/2023	N	26.1	15.8 - 24.7	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids Five (HAA5) (ppb)	1/2023 - 12/2023	N	24.8	11.4 - 22.5	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Results for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) in the Level Detected column is the highest locational running annual average (LRAA), computed quarterly of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of individual sample results during 2023 for all compliance monitoring locations.

Lead and Copper

Contaminant and Unit Of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	Number of sampling sites exceeding AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	07/2023	N	0.06	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/2023	N	1.1	0	0	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)	3/2023, 7/2023	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)	3/2023, 7/2023	3.6	3.4 - 3.7	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	3/2023, 7/2023	5.1	5.0 - 5.1	
Perfluorooctnaoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	3/2023, 7/2023	4.4	4.3 - 4.5	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	3/2023, 7/2023	8.9	5.7 - 12.0	
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (ppt)	3/2023, 7/2023	4.0	3.8 - 4.2	

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.

* "I" qualifier indicates the reported value is between the laboratory method detection limit and the laboratory practical quantitation limit.

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TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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 (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of the microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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: Not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of all samples collected from all sample locations within a calendar year.

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.

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.

parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (nanogram/l): One part by weight of analyte to 1 trillion parts by weight of the water sample.