

2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report City of Blountstown

We're 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 your water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water from three wells. The wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required is aeration and chlorine for disinfection purposes.

In 2011 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment of our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are eight potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low and medium susceptibility levels. The Assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from the City of Blountstown.

If you have questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Charles Sherrod, Chief Operator, at (850) 674-5488. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at 17278 NW Angle St.

The City of Blountstown routinely monitors 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 to December 31, 2012. Data obtained before January 1, 2012, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of 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 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 (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentration of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

Maximum residual disinfectant Level (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 (ug/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.

2012 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Radioactive 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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Jul-08	N	3.1	ND - 3.1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium226+228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Jul-08	N	0.9	0.6 - 0.9	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
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)	Jun-11	N	0.15	0.1 - 0.15	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium(ppm)	Jun-11	N	79	71 - 79	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Fluoride (ppm)	Jun-11	N	0.79	0.77 - 0.79	4	4.0	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
Stage 1 Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. / yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MDRL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan – Dec 12	N	0.64	0.35 – 1.02	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Sept&Nov12	N	8.9	4.1-16.6	N/A	MCL= 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Sept&Nov12	N	94.7	20-156	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. / yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling site exceeding the A/L	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jul - Sept 11	N	0.06	0 of 20	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Tap Water) (ppb)	Jul - Sept 11	N	2.6	0 of 20	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage/Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Jan-Dec 12	No	1*	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

*The City of Blountstown constantly monitors for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Specifically, we are required to collect four samples every month within the distribution system to test for Total Coliform (TC). If TC is present, three follow-up samples must be collected immediately as well as five samples the following month. Due to an administrative oversight, our office failed to sample for microbiological contaminants (coliforms) during the month of March. In October, we had a positive test result for Total Coliform. Three follow-up samples were collected and were TC negative however, we only collected 4 of the 5 required samples in November 2012. All violations were reported to the State and required notification was sent to all customers. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Technically, the presence or absence of TC for March cannot be verified since no samples were taken thus the health effects are unknown. Because of this monitoring violation, we have reviewed and updated our sampling procedure to ensure this does not happen again.

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 City of Blountstown 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 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://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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.

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).

The City Of Blountstown would like for you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

