

2006 Sarasota County Drinking Water Quality Report

Published in 2007

This report provides a summary of the quality of water provided to Sarasota County customers during 2006. It reflects our dedication to bring you high-quality, reliable drinking water. It includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Drinking water standards

The raw water we supply contains various substances or contaminants, some of which must be removed by a treatment process to produce water that meets Federal safe drinking water standards. Naturally occurring drinking water sources are never 100 percent "pure." Even rainwater contains dissolved minerals or other chemicals.

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.

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 (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 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 that 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

Ensuring quality

- Daily water samplings throughout the distribution system, including more than 120 samples, are analyzed monthly for bacteria content.
- Specialized samples from the treatment facilities and the distribution system are analyzed daily for treatment process control, surpassing even regulatory requirements.

% of supply	Location	Water source	Treatment method
5%	University Parkway	Wellfield with 7 wells	Aeration / disinfection
	Jacaranda Water Treatment Facility	Wellfield with 7 wells	Reverse osmosis
30%	T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Facility	Wellfield, 14 wells, draw from Intermediate and Floridan Aquifers	Electrodialysis, disinfection and filtration
25%	Purchase from Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority	Peace River	Physical, chemical processes, including filtration/disinfection, then blended with Carlton facility water
40%	Purchase from Manatee County	Manatee River and wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer	Physical, chemical processes, including filtration/disinfection

All our water sources are permitted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Sarasota County routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2006. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Sarasota County continues to provide an adequate and reliable supply of water daily while balancing the needs of our environment. We believe that by emphasizing nature's needs, people will ultimately benefit as well.

Source water assessment was conducted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2004 on Sarasota and Manatee counties' systems. Results are available on the Web at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/DisplayPWS.asp?pws_id=6581591&county=58 (Sarasota County) and www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/DisplayPWS.asp?pws_id=6411132&county=41 (Manatee County.)

Concerns?

Immuno-compromised persons - 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. Environmental Protection Agency / Centers for Disease Control 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).

Sarasota County works around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are at the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Attention property managers:

If you are a property owner or manager, please provide this water quality report to your tenants. This report may be photocopied or posted in a prominent location at your facility. More copies are available by calling the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and asking for utilities customer support.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or your water, please contact us at 941-861-6790 or visit our web site at www.scgov.net or e-mail us at waterquality@scgov.net.

To learn more about our water, please attend any of the regularly scheduled Water and Sewer Advisory Board meetings. Schedules are advertised on the County Page ad in local sections of Sunday editions of the *Herald-Tribune*, the *Venice Gondolier*, *North Port Sun Herald* and the *Tempo News*.

This document meets standards of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which requires community water systems to deliver annual water quality reports to their customers.

Sarasota County water quality summary 2006

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCLG	MCL	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	Likely source of contamination	Sampling date	MCL violation
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.77	95.7%	Soil runoff	Daily 06	No
RADIOLOGICAL							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level detected	Range of results	Likely source of contamination	Sampling date	MCL violation
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.4	ND-2.4	Erosion of natural deposits	Jan-06	No
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1.9	0.8-1.9	Erosion of natural deposits	Jan-06	No
INORGANIC							
Arsenic (ppb)	N/A	10	1.7	ND-1.7	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	Jan-06	No
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	0.0058-0.02	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Jan-06	No
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	4.0	ND-4.0	Discharge from steel/sheet metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories	Jan-06	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.94	0.22-0.94	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	Jan-06	No
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	N/A	15	0.63	ND-0.63	Residue from manmade pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing solder	Jan-06	No
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	160	67	14-67	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil	Jan-06	No
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (SOC) including Pesticides and Herbicides							
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3	0.11	ND-0.11	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops	2006	No
Simazine (ppb)	4	4	0.14	ND-0.14	Herbicide runoff	2006	No
NITRATES & NITRITES							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.807	0.042-0.807	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	2006	No
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC)							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCLG	MCL	Annual Average Monthly Removal Ratio	Range of monthly removal ratio	Likely source of contamination	Sampling date	TT violation
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	NA	TT	1.52C	1.00-2.02	Naturally present in the environment	2006	No
TTHMs and STAGE I DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT (D/DBP)							
For the following contaminants monitored under Stage I D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the annual average of the quarterly averages: Bromate, Chloramines, Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids, and/or TTHM (MCL 80 ppb). Range of Results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level detected	Range of results	Likely source of contamination	Sampling date	MCL violation
Chloramines (mg/L)	4E	4F	1.7C	1.5-2.1	Water additive used to control microbes	Daily 2006	No
Haloacetic Acids (Five) (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	13C	1.1-33D	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly 2006	No
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	0	80	26C	3.1-50D	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly 2006	No

What does this mean?

We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some compounds have been detected; however, the EPA has determined that your water meets all standards at these levels. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are set at very stringent levels. To exhibit the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Definitions

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.

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.

ND - Not detected – Not detected indicates the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

TT - Treatment technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

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.

N/A - Not applicable

NR - Not regulated

NTU - Nephelometric turbidity unit – A measure of water clarity. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/l - Picocuries per liter – A measure of the radioactivity in water.

ppb - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter – One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

ppm or mg/l - 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.

^C These values represent an annual average ^D These values represent values at individual sample sites ^E This value is a MRDLG (see definition) ^F This value is a MRDL (see definition)