2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

East Putnam Regional Water System

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is ground water from wells which draw from the Floridan Aquifer.

In 2019, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection 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 3 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a low to high susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

Major Treatment Processes

Water is drawn from one of two wells alternately, run through a coarse filter, and then made potable by the use of Reverse Osmosis technology. The potable water is then disinfected with chlorine, stored on-site and pumped through the distribution system to our customers.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Sam Willis, Utility Supervisor at 386-326-7289**.** We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the Board of County Commissions regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 9:00 A.M. at the Putnam County Government Complex, 2500 Crill Ave., Palatka, Florida 32177.

The East Putnam Regional Water System 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 1 to December 31, 2019. Data obtained before January 1, 2019 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

Terms and Abbreviations

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

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

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 the 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 (µg/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.

Water Quality Test Results

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
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	12/2018	N	0.0095	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	12/2018	N	0.076	N/A	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	12/2019	N	0.21	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	12/2018	N	35	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Stage I Disinfectants and Stage II 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 MRDL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Chlorine (ppm)	1/2019-12/2019	N	0.95	0.7 – 1.0	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)- Site 1	6/2019, 9/2019, 12/2019	N	10.18	2.29 – 12.32	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)- Site 2	6/2019,9/2019, 12/2019	N	10.5	ND – 11.13	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)- Site 1	6/20 19, 9/2019, 12/2019	Y	104.12	36.01 – 127.03	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)- Site 2	6/2019, 9/2019, 12/2019	Y	104.49	20.97 - 118.15	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Due to administrative oversight during a busy part of the year, our office failed to submit the 2018 Annual Disinfection Byproducts on time. When results were submitted to the Department in May 2019, the Total Trihalomethane results from both the north end of the distribution system Site -1 (125 South US Highway 17) and the south end of the distribution system Site -2 (744 South US Hwy 17) exceeded the MCL of 80 ppb. The Level Detected reported in the table above is the highest Locational Running Annual Average observed at each Site. *Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

With respect to the 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, the required form that was to be submitted to the Department is not on file. In addition, violations were generated for late submittal of chemical and bacteriological reports to the Regulatory Department of Environmental Protection Office. These violations have no impact on the quality of the water our customers received, and it posed no risk to public health. We are establishing a report tracking file to ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future.

In accordance with FDEP standards, we were required to begin testing in October 2018 on a quarterly basis for Disinfection Byproducts to make certain the test results stay below the MCL for a full year before the Locational Running Annual Average can be determined. We failed to conduct sampling for Disinfection Byproducts in the first quarter of 2019, incurring additional violations.

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 sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/2016	N	0.14	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/2016	N	3.3	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Required Lead Language

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. East Putnam Regional 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.

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.

Source Water Language

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.

Detection of Nitrate

As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Vulnerable Population

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).

In Closing

We at the East Putnam Regional Water System would like 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 contact us.