LET'S TALK WATER!

HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR THE

WEST HERNANDO WATER SYSTEM

HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
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As required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Drinking Water Act of 1996, the following information will be provided to our customers on an annual basis.

HERNANDO COUNTY UTILITIES
WATER QUALITY REPORT
FOR THE WEST HERNANDO WATER SYSTEM
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID # 6277059

INTRODUCTION

We are proud to report that the drinking water provided by Hernando County Utilities Department meets or exceeds all State and Federal Regulations. Hernando County Utilities will continue to use the most advanced technology to provide potable and abundant supplies of drinking water to its customers.

SOURCES OF HERNANDO COUNTY DRINKING WATER

The Hernando County Water System draws its water from the Floridan aquifer, by way of deep wells. The water from this aquifer is of consistently high quality. It is primarily fed by rainwater that is filtered through hundreds of feet of sand and rock in a natural cleansing process. Because of its high quality, the water needs little or no treatment other than disinfection. The Floridan stretches 82,000 square miles beneath Florida and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. The aquifer is primarily made up of limestone. Limestone rock acts like a sponge to hold water. The holes in the rock allow the water to flow freely through it. The aquifer is replenished in a natural process called recharge. Recharge occurs when water seeps through the soil down into the aquifer's limestone layer to be stored. The Floridan has an average thickness of 1,000 feet but has been estimated to be 3,500 feet thick in Southwest Florida.

In 2024 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data source indicated there is nine (9) potential sources of contamination identified for this system with Low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/

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.

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 some small amounts of 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.

WATER QUALITY IS MAINTAINED TO THE TAP

The water from the aquifer is of consistently high quality. Because of its high quality, the water requires no treatment other than chlorination. Water from the treatment plant is delivered to your home through an extensive distribution system of underground pipes. Water quality can deteriorate in these pipes. The first step is preventing degradation begins with a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program. Water samples at selected locations throughout the distribution system are constantly checked for chemical and microbiological quality. In addition, water pipes in some areas are periodically flushed to remove stale water.

Hernando County Utilities 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, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024, and represented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can result in diarrhea, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. Hernando County's water system has never detected the presence of this organism. Cryptosporidium comes from waste material of warm-blooded animals and is found in surface water. Since Hernando County's water system utilizes wells as the sole source of raw water, the presence of Cryptosporidium is not expected to occur.

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. The Hernando County Utilities Department 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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).

An active cross connection control program further protects the distribution system. This program identifies and corrects, as well as protects, against unauthorized hookups between the county distribution system and non-potable water, at sources such as irrigation wells.

Water is Worth Saving! Help us preserve and protect or water resources by learning practical ways that you can save water in your home and landscape. The Hernando County Utilities Department Water Conservation Division has educational programs, volunteer opportunities and incentive programs, which may assist HCUD customers to conserve this valuable resource. For more information on water conservation please call: 352-540-4368 Ext. 35139

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our childrens future. The Hernando County Utilities Department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide top quality water to every tap.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Landis Legg, Water Plants Supervisor, at (352) 754-4490, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

West Hernando Water System

DEFINITIONS:

Contaminant:	Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in the water.
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.
Action Level (AL):	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other Requirements which a water system must follow.
ND:	Not Detected - indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis
PPB or ug/l:	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 or Milligrams per liter - One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample
pCi/L):	Picocurie per liter - Measure of the radioactivity in water
N/A:	Not Applicable (does not apply)
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 the control of 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 use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.*
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.*

TEST RESULTS TABLE
West Hernando Water System PWS ID# 6277059

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Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of sampling Mo-Yr	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest single measurement	Range	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Uranium (ug/L) (U-234,U-235,U-238)	4/2023	N	7.5	1.2-7.5	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium – 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	4/2023	N	1.4	ND-0.08	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	4/2020	N	5.02	ND-5.02	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits

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Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of sampling Mo-Yr	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	4-2023	N	1.5	ND – 1.5	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	4-2023	N	0.011	.0042 - .011	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes: discharge from metal refineries: erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	4-2023	N	1.2	ND – 1.2	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills: erosion of natural deposits
Lead (Point of Entry) (ppb)	4-2023	N	0.64	ND – 0.64	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems: Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	4-2023	N	2.2	0.043 – 2.2	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	4-2023	N	9.1	5.1 – 9.1	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of sampling Mo-Yr	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile results	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Rang of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	Al	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	7-2023	N	1.3	0	ND – 9.7	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	7-2023	N	0.13	0	ND – 0.16	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits ; leaching from wood preservatives

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 or MRDL	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1 Thru 12 – 2024	N	1.50	0.70 – 2.1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2, 5, 8, 11 - 2024	N	8.54	1.03 – 20.76	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	2, 5, 8, 11 – 2024	N	8.9	3.87 – 18.79	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Hernando County Utilities Department has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether 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 EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Unregulated Contaminants Footnotes and Definitions

Likely Source of Contamination: Potential sources of contamination generally identified by the FDEP, Consumer Confidence Report Template Instructions and Template, FRWA/DEP, February 2023

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.

Minimum Detection Limit or MDL: The level of an unregulated contaminant in drinking water that can be measured as qualitatively present but not quantitatively accurate when using EPA-approved analytical methods, 40 CFR 136. The MDL is lower than the MRL.

Minimum Reporting Level or MRL: The level of an unregulated contaminant in drinking water that can be reliably measured at or above the EPA assigned UCMR 5 minimum reporting level, 40 CFR 141.153.

N/A: Not applicable

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

Sampling Point: Point of entry or point of connection to the distribution system where sample is collected.

Unregulated Contaminants: Results in the 'Average Level Detected' column is the average of all samples found to be higher than the MRL at any sampling point during the reporting period.

	Unregulated Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of sampling Mo-Yr	MRL	Level Detected (Average)	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Hazard Index	Likely Source of Contamination
PFBS (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	3	3.0	ND– 7.2	NA	NA	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.
PFHxS (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	3	1.65	ND – 3.3	. 10	10	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.
PFHxA (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	3	2.15	ND - 4.3	NA	NA	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.
PFOS (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	4	2.53	ND – 8.6	0	4.0	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.
PFOA (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	4	2.2	ND – 4.4	0	4.0	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.
PFPeA (ppt)	4/24 and 10/24	3	1.51	ND - 5.7	NA	NA	NA	Industrial and commercial application such as textiles aqueous film forming foams (AFFF), Metal plating semi-conductors, paper and food packing, coating additives, cleaning products, pesticides and personal care products.

Summary

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS. To inform the final rule, EPA evaluated over 120,000 comments submitted by the public on the rule proposal, as well as considered input received during multiple consultations and stakeholder engagement activities held both prior to and following the proposed rule. EPA expects that over many years the final rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people.

EPA established legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA as contaminants with individual MCLs, and PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS using a Hazard Index MCL to account for the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS in drinking water. EPA also finalized health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these PFAS.

The final rule requires:

- Public water systems must monitor these PFAS and have three years to complete initial monitoring (by 2027), followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Water systems must also provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027.
- Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed these MCLs.
- Beginning in five years (2029), public water systems that have PFAS in drinking water which violates one or more of these MCLs must take action to reduce levels of these PFAS in their drinking water and must provide notification to the public of the violation.