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SCDHEC Water System #0720001

**What's in the Pipe?** There's no question that the state of our pure water supply has been occupying more and more of our time lately. Unseasonably warm weather this spring coupled with a dearth of rainfall during the past few months has your Board of Commissioners and the South Island Public Service District staff on alert. Our supply is further complicated by the continued acceleration of saltwater intrusion into our primary fresh water source, the Floridan Aquifer. While you'll be pleased to know that plans are well underway to deal with these issues, in the end the solution lies with you. Conservation is the watchword of the day. Use your irrigation systems sparingly. Check for leaks in your bathrooms and kitchens. Think about using less water rather than more. And remember that our water is a precious resource and the pure stuff of life.

**Speaking of Purity...** it's that time of year again. Yearly, the Environmental Protection Agency requires all public water utilities to inform their customers about water quality. As regular readers of *PipeLines* well know by now, the water from your tap is about as pure as any you can find anywhere in the country.

**The Source of our Water...** is groundwater drawn from the Floridan and Cretaceous Aquifers. Your utility's Source Water Assessment Plan is available at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf). If you do not have Internet access, please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866 to make arrangements to review this document.

**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:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- 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;
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- 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;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 1-800-426-4791.

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.

**Looking at the Numbers...** the report on the next side was generated via a variety of highly sophisticated lab tests for the monitoring period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. These tests were done to detect a variety of water constituents and then compared against federally mandated maximum levels. The regulatory agencies allow some contaminants to be monitored less frequently than once a year. The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing. Data from previous monitoring periods are noted.

**What Does It All Mean?** As indicated by the data, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Note that we have learned through our monitoring and testing that while some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water is perfectly safe at these levels.

**Health and Water...** You should also know that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as people with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, those 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 microbial contaminants, as well as more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility in general, please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866.

**Importante...** Este informe contiene informacion sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Your Commissioners Meet...** 8 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the SIPSID offices, 2 Genesta Street. The public is cordially invited and most welcome to attend.

**See You Next Time...** Remember that water is a gift to be savored and protected. Inspect your irrigation systems—are they wasting water? Look around the house. Save water wherever and whenever you can. We're always interested in your comments, so please write: *PipeLines*, c/o South Island Public Service District, Post Office Box 5148, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938.

Regulated Contaminants								
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	6/7/2011	1	0 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	6/7/2011	1	0 - 2.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*	2011	7	0 - 14.94	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2011	0.9	0.16 - 0.9	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2011	0.021	0 - 0.021	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	7/26/2011	6.4	0 - 6.4	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/18/2010	1.3	1.3	0.095	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	8/18/2010	0	15	3	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

\*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

**Definitions:** The above tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant in drinking water 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.

**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.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**NA:** Not applicable.

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. South Island PSD 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 two 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>.

We have been monitored for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2 (UCMR 2) in 2008. No detections were noted. If you would like to receive the list of contaminants monitored please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866.



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