



2000 Quality on Tap Report Immokalee Water & Sewer District

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Por favor llame (941) 658-3630 para ayuda en traducir o entender este informe.

Document sa genyen anpil gro infomasyon sou afe dlo-a. Si ou manke compren li, rele nan numero sa-a (941) 658-3630.

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 our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water from wells. Our wells draw from the Lower Tamiami and Sandstone Aquifers.

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Executive Director, Eva J. Deyo, or the Water Department Supervisor, Jerry Warden at (941) 658-3630. We want 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 3rd Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in our Board Room, located at 1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee.

Immokalee Water & Sewer District 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 1st to December 31st 2000. 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. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not



necessarily pose a health

In the table below you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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.

risk.

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.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

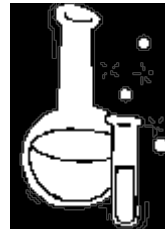
“ND” means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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.

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.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - measure of the radioactivity in water.

EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table below are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.



TEST RESULTS TABLE						
Microbiological Contaminants						
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
1. Total Coliform Bacteria	02/00 05/00	N	1	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in more than 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

** Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.							
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

Radiological Contaminants							
5. Alpha (pCi/l)	11/99	N	2.1	1.1-2.1	0	15	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
14. Cyanide (ppb)	10/99	N	5	ND-5	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
15. Fluoride (ppm)	01/00	N	.73	.69-.73	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
23. Sodium (ppm)	10/99	N	29.4	12.8-29.4	n/a	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Note: The result in the Level Detected column for TTHMs is the highest of the four quarterly running annual averages of results from all sampling sites. The quarterly running annual averages were calculated during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2000.							
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
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)							
76. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	03/00 05/00 09/00 12/00	N	95	1-178	NA	100	By-product of drinking water chlorination

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]. 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. By adjusting the pH of the water, Immokalee Water & Sewer District was able to keep the annual average TTHM level below the MCL for the year 2000.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
77. Copper (tap water) (ppm)	10/98	N	.44	1	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

78. Lead (tap water) (ppb)	10/98	N	4	1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
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Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	Average Result	Range of Results at or Above Detection	Likely Source of Contamination
Group II Unregulated Organic Contaminants				
103. Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	07/99	20.8	11.3-26.2	By-product of disinfection.
104. Bromoform (ppb)	07/99	1.6	1.6	By-product of disinfection.
107. Chloroform (ppb)	07/99	55.13	30.8-69.6	By-product of disinfection.
109. Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	07/99	7.33	1.3-15.4	By-product of disinfection.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Secondary Contaminants							
6. Iron (ppm) *TT	10/99	N	.60	.60		0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
*Note TT: Treatment Technique – Pursuant to Rule 62-550.325(2), suppliers of water may use sequestering agents in lieu of meeting the MCL for iron when the MCL does not exceed 1.0 milligrams per liter in water.							

In a March 1999 report, entitled BOTTLED WATER: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?, published by the Natural Resources Defense Council, results of their four year scientific study on bottled water were revealed. The study included independent tests of over 1,000 bottles of bottled drinking water, from 103 different brands. Some of the findings were:

- About 1/3 of the waters tested contained some levels of contamination, for a chemical or bacterial contaminant, that exceeded allowable limits under either state or bottled water industry standards or guidelines.
- 22% contained levels of cancer-causing synthetic compounds, such as arsenic, at levels above strict state health limits.
- FDA's rules for bottled water are subject to less rigorous testing and purity standards than EPA's rules, which apply to city tap water.
- Bottled water, which is packaged and sold within the same state are exempt from even the Food and Drug Administration rules. This accounts for approximately 60 to 70 % of all bottled water. Also exempt from FDA rules are carbonated water and seltzer.
- About 25% or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle – sometimes treated, sometimes not.
- People spend from 240 to over 10,000 times more, per gallon for bottled water, than they typically do for tap water.

For more information see: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Online's Homepage:
<http://mail.igc.apc.org/nrdc/find/hebw.html> (accessed July 1, 1999)

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, 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.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink **2 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.

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

In 1996 we upgraded the drinking water capacity from 3.1 to 4.5 million gallons a day. We are now working towards increasing capacity on the wastewater side.

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).

We at Immokalee Water & Sewer District 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.



If you have any questions, please call us at (941) 658-3630

Did you know?

The Immokalee Water & Sewer District was created by an Act of the Florida Legislature on July 5, 1978, for the purpose of providing water and sewer services to Immokalee, an unincorporated area of Collier County, Florida. The District operates and maintains the water and sewer plants and systems as a Special District of the State of Florida. The District is governed by a seven member Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida. The Board of Commissioners administers the District, independent from any other local governing body. The District currently employs 24 people.

Board of Commissioners:

- Leo F. Rodgers, Chairman
- Belinda Sanchez, Vice Chairman
- Ophelia Allen, Treasurer
- Lucy V. Ortiz, Secretary
- Pete Cade, Commissioner
- Anne Goodnight, Commissioner
- Joseph Matthews, Commissioner

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Winner of Florida Rural Water Association's "1997 BEST TASTING WATER CONTEST" – October 28, 1997.

"OUTSTANDING CLASS C-D WATER TREATMENT PLANT -1998 "
by the Florida Section - American Water Works Association

Our own, *Jerry V. Warden*, was also named Florida Rural Water Association's "1997 WATER PLANT OPERATOR OF THE YEAR " and was also named "OUTSTANDING WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR 1998" and "1999 OPERATOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD", by the Florida Section - American Water Works Association.

Lena Silva was named “**1999 SECRETARY OF THE YEAR**” by the Florida Rural Water Association.