

# 2010

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Of the Okaloosa County Water and Sewer System

We are 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 drawn from the Floridan Aquifer. Due to the excellent quality of our water the only treatment process required is disinfection using chlorine at each well.

The Okaloosa County Water and Sewer 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, 2010. The state has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. 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 risk.

In 2009 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment (SWA) on our systems. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 16 potential sources of contamination identified for the Main system (PWS 1460506) with low to moderate susceptibility levels. In the Bluewater/Raintree system (PWS 1460775) there was no potential sources of contamination. The SWA for the Mid County system (PWS 1464044) revealed 1 potential source of contamination with a moderate susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection web site: [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp) or they can be obtained from OCWS at 651-7133.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE):** *An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.*

**Not Applicable - (N/A)**

**“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** - *one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.*

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - *Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.*

**Action Level (AL)** - *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - *The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 Containment Level Goal** - *The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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 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.*

While your drinking water meets USEPA's standard for arsenic, the Mid-County and Main systems do contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

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. All 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**.

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. Okaloosa County Water and Sewer 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>.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.

**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).**

**Garnier's Main Water System.** This water system services the Ocean City-Wright-Shalimar-Okaloosa Island area and all the unincorporated areas around Fort Walton Beach. It is served by 11 wells, 10 elevated tanks, and two ground storage tanks. In addition this system also receives drinking water from the Mid-County System via pipeline.

**Bluewater Bay/Raintree System.** Located in Bluewater Bay east of Rocky Bayou Bridge along Highway 20 to the Walton County line. This system is served by 3 wells and 2 elevated tanks.

**Mid-County (Crestview) System.** This water system serves the unincorporated areas around Crestview and consists of 5 wells, 3 elevated tanks, and 1 ground storage tank.

Please call our office if you have any questions. We at the Okaloosa County Water and Sewer System work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are at the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

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 Board of County Commissioner's meetings, usually held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month. **Please contact: Kathy Newby at (850) 651-7515.**

**If you have any questions about this report  
or concerning your water utility, please contact  
Phillip Arnett at (850) 651-7133.**