2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Fort White – Columbia County Utilities

PWS # 2124399

P.O. Box 129, Fort White, FL 32038

PHONE 386-497-3345

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 sources are two groundwater wells that draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes, treated with AQUA MAG® blended phosphate and permanganate for iron removal, and treated with granular activated carbon for color, taste, and odor control.

In 2022, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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 is one potential source of contamination identified for this system with a moderate susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/.

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

*If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Vernon Zinnerman**, Fort White Public Works Director, at **386-497-3345**, office hours 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.*

The Town of Fort White and Columbia County Utilities routinely monitor 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, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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.*

***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.*

***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."*

***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 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 to not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.*

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.*

Radioactive 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
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	08/2021	N	3.2	N/A	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
Barium (ppm)	08/2021	N	0.0044	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	08/2021	N	1.80	N/A	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	08/2021	N	7.27	N/A	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Sodium (ppm)	08/2021	N	8.45	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

Stage 1 Disinfectants

Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2022	N	1.17	0.2-1.7	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

For Chlorine, "Level Detected" is the highest running annual average (RAA) that occurred in 2022, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2022.

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

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
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	Quarterly 2022	Y	62.96 (highest LRAA, site 2)	24.00-101.91	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly 2022	Y	146.24 (highest LRAA, site 1)	39.50-142.00	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

For HAA5s and TTHMs, "Level Detected" is the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) that occurred in 2022, computed quarterly. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2022.

HAA5 Monitoring Results (ppb)	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2022
Site 1 Quarterly Results	24.40	N/A (lab error)	100.61	51.75
Site 1 LRAA	17.07	18.00	62.51	58.92
Site 2 Quarterly Results	24.00	N/A (lab error)	101.91	46.44
Site 2 LRAA	16.04	16.31	62.96	57.45

Reported LRAA for Quarters 1-3 are based on quarterly HAA5 results from 2021 not reported in this table.
Site 1 – End of Water Line, Wilson Springs Rd.
Site 2 – CR 18 & Greenwood Terrace Hydrant
**Sites selected by Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE)

TTHM Monitoring Results (ppb)	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2022	3rd Quarter 2022	4th Quarter 2022
Site 1 Quarterly Results	142.00	97.90	137.88	119.90
Site 1 LRAA	98.89	114.97	146.24	124.42
Site 2 Quarterly Results	39.50	93.60	135.11	113.97
Site 2 LRAA	78.53	93.78	114.06	95.55

Reported LRAA for Quarters 1-3 are based on quarterly TTHM results from 2021 not reported in this table.
Site 1 – End of Water Line, Wilson Springs Rd.
Site 2 – CR 18 & Greenwood Terrace Hydrant
**Sites selected by Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE)

Our water system was in violation of federal and state water quality standards for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) during the third and fourth quarters of 2022, or from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Samples are being collected quarterly to monitor these levels.
Additionally, quality-control lab errors impacted our second quarter 2022 HAA5 sample results, meaning we do not know whether these contaminants were present in your drinking water during that time, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk. The second quarter monitoring period was April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Sampling resumed on September 9, 2022.
The levels of HAA5s are shown in the test results tables above. Some people who drink water containing HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Our water system was in violation of federal and state water quality standards for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2022, or from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.
The levels of TTHMs are shown in the test results tables above. 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.

Secondary 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
Color (color units)	08/2021	Y	30	N/A	N/A	15	Naturally occurring organics
Manganese (ppm)	08/2021	Y	0.107	N/A	N/A	0.05	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

As shown in the table, we exceeded the MCL for Color and Manganese in 2021. Secondary contaminant exceedances are considered to be aesthetic violations, and they are not considered by the EPA to have major health effects. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Fort White continue to monitor as required.

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)	09/2021	N	0.105	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	09/2021	N	1.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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 Town of

Fort White and Columbia County Utilities are 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.

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.

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 U.S. 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.

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control 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 the Town of Fort White and Columbia County Utilities 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 ensuring 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.

PLEASE CONSERVE WATER. EVERY DROP COUNTS!