

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 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**.

## For Customers with Special Health Concerns

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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PLAN

In 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated one potential source of contamination with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

## HOW TO REACH US

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact U.S. Water Services Corporation at (727) 848-8292. We encourage our valued customer to be informed about their water utility.

## ABOUT 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. Everglades City 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>.

## EVERGLADES CITY

### 2023 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT PWS ID # 5110089

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a 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. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this report, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean. **Additional copies available at City Hall upon request.**

## WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

Our water source consists of two water wells drawing from the Surficial Aquifer. Our water is then treated with chlorine/chloramines for disinfection purposes.

## HOW WE ENSURE YOUR DRINKING WATER IS SAFE

We 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, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

As authorized and approved by the 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 one year to another. As a result, some of our data is more than one year old.

2023 Water Quality Table – PWS No. 5110089

**How to Read the Table**

In the table, 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 contaminants which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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

**ND:** Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample.

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Table Notes:**

- A. Results in the Level Detected column for inorganic contaminants and disinfection by-products are the highest detected level at any sampling point.
- B. For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

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
Arsenic (ppb)	4/2021	N	0.51	N/A	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	4/2021	N	0.0079	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	4/2021	N	51.7	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine and Chloramines(ppm)	Monthly 2023	N	2.36	1.63 – 2.93	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
STAGE 2 DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	9/2023	N	10.11	N/A	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	9/2023	N	4.04	N/A	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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)	9/2021	N	0.0776	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/2021	N	5.5	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits