

Charlotte County Utilities  
25550 Harbor View Road Unit 1  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2500



#### CCU MISSION STATEMENT

To provide products and services of uncompromising value to the community by operating a public utility system that is economically sound, environmentally responsible, operationally reliable, and customer responsive.

#### VISION STATEMENT

To become a World-Class Utility by exceeding customer expectations in fiscal responsibility, customer service, water quality and environmental protection.

#### VALUE STATEMENT

Community commitment to enhance the quality of life for Charlotte County.

The Utility, a department of the County, also follows Charlotte County's mission statement that is: *To Exceed Expectations in the Delivery of Public Service.*

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit # 245  
Punta Gorda, FL

*This handout is based on the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regulations that were published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The CCR rule is the first EPA rule that addresses the public's right-to-know provisions of the 1996 SDWA Amendments*

*Burnt Store -  
Charlotte County Utilities*

*Annual Drinking  
Water Quality  
Report 2003*

# 2003 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Burnt Store Public Drinking Water System PWS # 6080318

Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services CCU delivers to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. It is important to us that you understand our commitment to ensuring and improving water quality and the protection of our water resources.

This system, formerly owned by Florida Water Services, was acquired by **Charlotte County Utilities (CCU)** on December 12, 2003. CCU routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table in this brochure shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003. These same regulations require monitoring to occur in 9-year compliance cycles, made up of three 3-year compliance periods. These 3-year compliance periods result in some contaminants being monitored once every three years. This testing analysis may require some contaminant test results to be reported in this document from years other than calendar year 2003. We have learned that through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected.

CCU operates the reverse osmosis water treatment plant and distribution system serving the Burnt Store and Pirate Harbor service area. Our source water is groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer and is treated through a two stage membrane treatment process, an aeration system, with final chlorination and pH adjustment before the water is pumped to the distribution system.

If you have any questions about the data provided in this Consumer Confidence Report/Annual Drinking Water Quality Report PWS #6080318 or require additional information, please contact our CCU representative **Terrence Briggs at 941-764-4300**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

**Source Water Assessment Plan**—A statewide source water assessment project is under way by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and includes the Peace River basin. This assessment will result in a "*SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT*". These assessments will identify and assess any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our water supply. A Source Water Assessment for our system should be completed by October 2004 and a report will be available at the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program web site: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp>. CCU will provide annually, as part of the Consumer Confidence Report Annual Drinking Water Quality Data, an update on the FDEP Water Source Assessment and Protection Program.

### HOW DO I READ THIS?

It's easy. The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. The column marked "Level Detected" shows the highest results from the last time tests were performed. "Likely Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. Descriptions below explain other important details. In this 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 a contaminant that, 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.*

**"N/A" :** *Means not applicable*

**"ND"** *means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.*

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** *Measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.*

**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, which corresponds to one minute in two years or a penny in \$10,000.*

**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, which corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a penny in \$10,000,000.*

**Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) :** *Measure of the radioactivity in water.*

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

# Water Quality Test Results— 2003

## Radiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	03/02, 05/02 08/02 & 12/02	N	8.0 (Range: 3.8-8.0)	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226 or Combined Radium (pCi/l)	03/02, 05/02 08/02 & 12/02	N	3.3 (Range: 1.3-3.3)	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.

## Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	06/02	N	0.0057	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	06/02	N	0.15	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium (ppb)	06/02	N	5.2	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Sodium (ppm)	06/02	N	62.0	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.
Lead (plant tap) (ppb)	06/02	N	1.0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

## Lead and Copper

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/02- 09/02	N	0.038	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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.

**\*\* 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.**

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

*We at Charlotte 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 insuring the quality of your water. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.*

#### New Improvements Planned and System Upgrades in 2004

- Two new water supply wells are nearing completion and construction of the transmission pipeline is planned for 2004.
- Evaluation of the water facilities and the Vulnerability Assessment & Emergency Response Plans are being done in 2004.
- Security fencing and facility security measures are ongoing for 2004.
- Water Model Master Plan is being developed for implementation in 2004-2005.

#### Improvements to Facilities in 2003

- Acquisition of the Florida Water Services Burnt Store Utility and Service Area was completed on December 12, 2003.

#### WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO FIND IN MY DRINKING WATER?

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) **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.
- (B) **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.
- (C) **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) **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.