# Charlotte County Utilities
# 2009 Consumer Confidence Report

**Charlotte County Utilities Public Drinking Water System - PWS #5084100**

**Charlotte County Utilities was voted the best tasting water by Region X American Water Works Association 2009**

Dear Valued Customer:

This annual 2009 Consumer Confidence Report is an opportunity to provide you with detail of the drinking water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. CCU employees work around the clock to ensure your water meets or exceeds all standards and expectations.

When you drink CCU tap water, you're drinking clean, quality award winning water.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water for all these years. We ask our customers to help us conserve water and protect our water resource, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Sincerely,

*Terri Kesner*
**Interim Utilities Director**

## 2009 Consumer Confidence Report

The Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) oversees the operations of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Facility (PRMRWSF), which uses the Peace River as its source of supply. The Peace River is a large river, by Florida standards, with a drainage area of 2,300 square miles. Its headwaters originate in the Green Swamp of northern Polk County, flowing through Lake Hancock, the Winter Haven chain of lakes and Lake Hamilton. The mouth of the Peace River is located in Punta Gorda, 120 miles downstream from the headwaters, delivering needed fresh water to the Charlotte Harbor estuary. The PR/MRWSA sells water to Charlotte County, the City of North Port, DeSoto County, Manatee County and Sarasota County.

The PR/MRWSA and Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. These same regulations require monitoring to occur in nine-year compliance cycles, made up of three, three-year compliance periods. These three-year 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 2009. We have learned that through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have questions about the data provided in this annual Consumer Confidence Report or require additional information, please contact our representative, Stephen Kipfinger, at 941.764.4300. To learn more, please attend any of the PR/MRWSA Board of Director meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month,
10 a.m. to noon, and rotate between the County Commission Chambers of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties. For information on a specific meeting, please visit www.regionalwater.org/schedule.html or call the PR/MRWSA at 941.316.1776.

**Source Water Assessment Plan**: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2008. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the Peace River Regional Water Supply surface water intakes. Potential sources of contamination that were identified include underground petroleum storage tanks and wastewater treatment plants. The risk level is considered to be high. Assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program Web site at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp

**HOW DO I READ THIS REPORT?** It's easy. The table to the right shows the results of our water quality analyses. The "Level Detected" column shows the highest results from the most recent tests. "Likely Sources" shows where this substance usually originates. As you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations in this table, 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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers additional treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**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 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** The 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 one 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 one 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.

## Drinking Water Test Results

### Radiological Contaminants – Peace River Authority

| 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) | 1/08, 5/08, 8/08, 11/08, 7/09 | N | 6.0 | 1.2-6.0 | 0 | 15 | Erosion of natural deposits |
| Combined Radium (pCi/L) | 1/08, 5/08, 8/08, 10/08, 7/09 | N | 1.3 | 1.1-1.3 | 0 | 5 | Erosion of natural deposits |

### Inorganic Contaminants – Peace River Authority

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cyanide (ppb) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 7.0 | 6.2-7.0 | 200 | 200 | Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | .333 | .262-.333 | 4 | 4.0 | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.3 ppm |

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead (point of entry) (ppb) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 0.67 | N/A | n/a | 15 | Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder |
| Nickel (ppb) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 1.18 | N/A | N/A | 100 | Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 0.367 | .233-.367 | 10 | 10 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 0.013 | .004-.013 | 1 | 1 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |
| Selenium (ppb) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 1.57 | N/A | 50 | 50 | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines |
| Sodium (ppm) | 1/09, 7/09 | N | 102 | 66.4-102 | N/A | 160 | Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil |

**Level Detected: 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 two liters of water at the MCL level every day for a lifetime for a one- in-a million chance of having the described health effect.**

## Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection byproduct (D/DBP) Parameters - Charlotte County Utilities

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chloramines (ppm) | 1/09-12/09 | N | 2.9 | .6-5.2 | 4 | 4 | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb) | 1/09, 4/09, 7/09, 10/09 | N | 28.64 | 9.52-57.1 | N/A | 60 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| TTHM (total trihalomethanes) (ppb) | 1/09, 4/09, 7/09, 10/09 | N | 63.68 | 38-89.6 | N/A | 80 | By-product of drinking water disinfection |

## Lead and Copper (Tap Water) - Charlotte County Utilities

| Contaminant and Unit of Measurement | Dates of sampling (mo./yr.) | AL Exceedance Y/N | 90th Percentile Result | No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL | MCLG | AL (Action Level) | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copper (tap water) (ppm) | 6/07 | N | 0.3146 | 0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead (tap water) (ppb) | 6/07 | N | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |

**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. CCU is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing you tap for 30 seconds to two 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 lead in drinking water testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at** www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**.**

## Microbiological Contaminants - Charlotte County Utilities

| Contaminant and Unit of Measurement | Dates of sampling (mo./yr.) | MCL Violation Y/N | Highest Monthly Percentage /Number | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Total Coliform Bacteria | 1/09-12/09 | N | 1 | 0 | For systems collecting at least 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples. | Naturally present in the environment |

## Turbidity Contaminants – Peace River Authority

| Contaminant and Unit of Measurement | Dates of sampling (mo./yr.) | MCL Violation Y/N | Highest Single Measurement | The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits | MCLG | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turbidity (NTU) | 1/09-12/09 | N | .34 | 100% | N/A | TT | Soil runoff |

**Note: The result in the Lowest Monthly Percentage column is the lowest monthly percentage of samples reported in the Monthly Operating Report meeting the required turbidity limits.**
**Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms, including bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.**

## Secondary Contaminants – Peace River Authority

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) | 7/09 | N | 456 | N/A | N/A | 500 | Natural occurrence from soil leaching |

- **The Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has issued an Emergency Order related to the current drought which allows us to exceed 500 ppm until the drought is over or until March 12, 2010, whichever comes first. There are no health effects from this exceedance.**

### 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) 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.*