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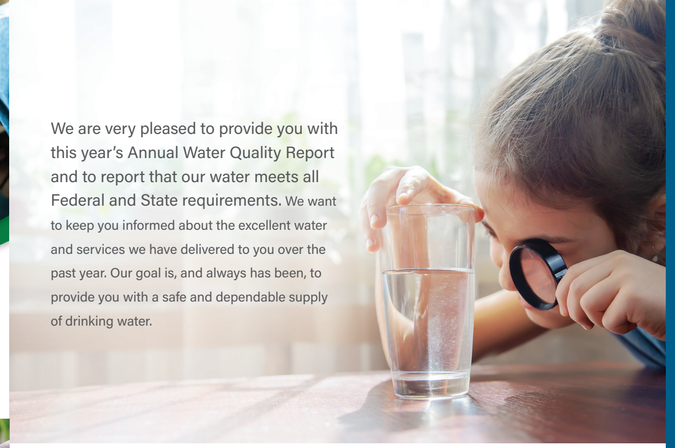
2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report and to report that our water meets all Federal and State requirements. 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 you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.



WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

In 2023, ECUA sourced water from 27 active wells distributed throughout its service area that pump water from the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer. In general, ECUA customers receive water from the wells (two to five) located closest to their residence. ECUA wells are operated as separate treatment plants to allow for the adjustment of water quality parameters for maximum operational efficiencies and compliance with regulatory standards.

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.

The Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer is a prolific, high-quality source of water for our community. Because it does not have a confining layer above it, virtually everything that falls on the ground has the potential to affect the quality of our water supply.

ECUA is well aware of this threat to groundwater and over the years has worked with Escambia County and the city of Pensacola in strengthening their Wellhead Protection Ordinances.

There are Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters installed on 14 wells for iron or organic contamination removal. Basic treatment includes calcium hydroxide (lime) for pH adjustment; phosphoric acid for corrosion control in the distribution system and home plumbing; and chlorine for disinfection. Fluoride is added at select wells to help prevent tooth decay.

ECUA regularly monitors your drinking water for total coliform bacteria that are generally not harmful themselves, but are naturally present in the environment, and typically serve as an indicator that other bacteria may be present. This is a process that we take very seriously and implement carefully each month.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- 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.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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.

STATEMENT ABOUT CROSS CONNECTION

ECUA has been in contact with the Department of Environment Protection to correct inadequacies identified with our Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program. A "cross-connection" is any potential or actual connection between the public water supply and a potential source of contamination or pollution. A Cross Connection Control Program is an organized, legally implemented, and structured program developed to help eliminate hazards to the municipal potable water supply. Though we are continuing to implement our adopted CCC plan to improve backflow testing rates, some backflow prevention assemblies still need testing.

2021 FDEP DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT AWARD


2021 PLANT OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE AWARD

In furtherance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's goal of ensuring safe drinking water for all people in Florida, this certificate is hereby awarded to

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

In recognition of outstanding operation through dedicated professionalism.
Awarded at the 2022 Focus on Change webinar series event held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Presented this 16th Day of March 2022.

Michael Lynch, Director, Division of Water Resource Management

Each year, the FDEP presents awards to drinking water and domestic wastewater facilities around the state that demonstrate excellence in operation, maintenance, innovative treatment, waste reduction and pollution prevention, recycling, or other special achievements. These awards recognize facilities that demonstrate a special commitment to excellence in management through dedicated professionalism. ECUA is proud to be a 2021 Drinking Water Treatment Plant Award Winner in the Large Community Water System category.

We are proud to report that ECUA's drinking water was selected as the Best Tasting Water 5 times between 2005 and 2023 in the annual taste-test competition sponsored by Region IX of the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association. Region IX is comprised of all water utilities in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact The ECUA Water Production Regulatory Compliance Coordinator at (850) 969-6659. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. ECUA Board and Committee meetings are held in the boardroom of the ECUA Administration Building, 9255 Sturdevant St., Pensacola, FL 32514. For a complete schedule of meetings, please contact the Executive Assistant, Ms. Amanda Miller, at (850) 969-3302, or visit us online at www.ecua.fl.gov. The ECUA Water Quality Report for 2024 will be published by July 1, 2025.

DEFINITIONS

We've provided the following definitions to help you better understand certain terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar.

ACTION LEVEL (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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 GOAL (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 CONTAMINANT LEVEL (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 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.

NOT DETECTED (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 per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

PARTS PER BILLION (ppb) OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER (ug/l): One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

PICOCURIES PER LITER (pCi/L): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water, a quadrillionth of a curie per liter.

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 persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC (Centers 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

2023 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT SYSTEM-WIDE TEST RESULTS TABLE

The System-Wide Test Results table included in this report presents the results of compliance monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2023. 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 year to year. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Maximum Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Apr 17 - Aug 23	No	6.3	ND - 6.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226+228 (pCi/L)	Apr 17 - Nov 23	No	4.83	ND - 4.83	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Antimony (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	0.08	ND - 0.08	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium (ppm)	May - Nov 23	No	0.057	0.010 - 0.057	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	0.25	ND - 0.25	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	0.96	ND - 0.96	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	May - Nov 23	No	0.99	ND - 0.99	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when maintained at optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	0.35	ND - 0.35	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions & paint; lead pipe, casing & solder
Mercury (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	0.097	ND - 0.097	2	2	Erosion from natural deposits; discharge from refineries & factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppb)	May - Nov 23	No	1.1	ND - 1.1	n/a	100	Pollution from mining & refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	May - Nov 23	No	3.9	0.22 - 3.9	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	May - Nov 23	No	9.3	2.7 - 9.3	n/a	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Maximum Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	Jan - Nov 23	No	1.88 avg.	ND - 2.7	0	3	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
STAGE 1 & 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation	Level Detected (LRAA)	Range of Results	MCLG (MRDLG)	MCL or (MRDL)	Likely source of contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan - Dec 23	No	0.76 avg.	0.69-0.81	4 MRDLG	4.0 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Jan - Dec 23	No	0.93 avg.	ND - 2.1	n/a	80/MCL	By-products of drinking water disinfection
LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)							
Contaminant and unit of measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	AL Violation Y/N	90th percentile	No. of sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL	Likely source of contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	July - Aug 23	No	0.33	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

*Well-specific data tables are available by contacting the Water Production Regulatory Compliance Coordinator at (850) 969-6659.

ECUA routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, generally more frequently than the law prescribes. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2023. Data obtained before Jan. 1, 2023, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

ECUA has been monitoring for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At the time of sampling, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) were established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS				
Contaminant and unit of measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	Level Detected (average) ug/L	Range of Results (ug/L)	Likely source of contamination
PFBA (perfluorobutanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0008	ND-0.0407	Unavailable
PFBS (perfluorobutanesulfonic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0019	ND-0.0160	Unavailable
PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0020	ND-0.0378	Unavailable
4:2FTS (1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorohexane sulfonic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0002	ND-0.0076	Unavailable
PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0047	ND-0.0553	Unavailable
PFHxA (perfluorohexanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0047	ND-0.1110	Unavailable
PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0006	ND-0.0162	Unavailable
6:2FTS (1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0055	ND-0.2201	Unavailable
PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) (ppb)	Apr - Dec 23	0.0060	ND-0.0357	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps; U.S. manufacture of PFOS phased out in 2002; however, PFOS still generated incidentally
PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr-Dec 23	0.0049	ND-0.0258	Used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers (such as Teflon), fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films
PFPeA (perfluoropentanoic acid) (ppb)	Apr-Dec 23	0.0057	ND-0.1389	Unavailable
PFPeS (Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid) (ppb)	Apr-Dec 23	0.0003	ND-0.0110	Unavailable

Additional information related to PFAS is available on our website at ecua.fl.gov/live-green/our-water-supply.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

In 2023 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our water. Assessments are conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 43 potential sources of contamination identified for this system, with a low to moderate susceptibility level. ECUA's Wellhead Protection Program helps to protect the integrity of the ECUA water system. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/ or they can be obtained by calling the ECUA's Water Production Regulatory Compliance Coordinator at (850) 969-6659.

PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER NOTICES

What are Precautionary Boil Water Notices and Why Do We Issue Them? Occasionally, drinking water distribution systems experience disruptions caused by main breaks, planned maintenance, or loss of pressure, which require the issuing of a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (PBWN).

The PBWN does not mean that contamination is present but is merely a precautionary measure until bacteriological test results confirm that no contamination exists.

ECUA makes every effort possible to keep our customers informed as to the quality of our water. The status of all PBWNs can be obtained any time of day by calling the ECUA SCADA office at (850) 969-3343 or online at www.ecua.fl.gov. Customers may also opt-in to the ECUA Notification System by going through the registration process through a link located on the homepage of the ECUA website.

2023 TABLE OF SYSTEM-WIDE AVERAGES

REGULATED VOC'S	REGULATORY MCL	AVERAGED CONCENTRATION
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	3	0.076
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	**REGULATORY MCL**	**AVERAGED CONCENTRATION**
Antimony (ppb)	6	0.0002
Barium (ppm)	2	0.025
Beryllium (ppb)	4	0.017
Chromium (ppb)	100	0.275
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.515
Lead (ppb)	15	0.010
Mercury (ppb)	2	0.012
Nickel (ppb)	100	0.276
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	1.535
Sodium (ppm)	160	4.794

LEAD AND COPPER

ECUA is participating in the EPA's national initiative to 'Get the Lead Out' and has begun conducting a material inventory of all service lines connected to our drinking water distribution system to determine if any of these pipes contain lead. The Lead and Copper samples collected and analyzed in 2023 indicate that the ECUA Water System is in full compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule.

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 Emerald Coast Utilities Authority 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 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 on Lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.