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2025
WATER QUALITY REPORT
EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY

We are pleased to share this year's Annual Water Quality Report with you.

We are proud to report that your drinking water continues to meet all currently implemented Federal and State regulatory requirements. This report also includes an informational update regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to keep our customers informed about recent monitoring and upcoming regulatory requirements.

Keeping you informed about the quality of your drinking water and the services we provide is an important part of our commitment to transparency and public health. Over the past year, we have continued to deliver high-quality water while maintaining and improving the reliability of our system.

Our goal, now and always, is to provide you with a safe, dependable, and high-quality supply of drinking water you can trust.

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

In 2025, the ECUA sourced water from 28 active groundwater wells distributed throughout its service area that pump water from the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer ranging from a depth of approximately 200 to 450 feet. In general, ECUA customers receive water from two to five wells located closest to their residence. The ECUA wells are operated with separate treatment plants to allow for 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 drinking water for our community. Because this aquifer does not have a protective confining layer above it, it is more vulnerable to contamination from activities at the land surface. Rainfall that seeps into the ground can carry improperly disposed materials—such as motor oil, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, household chemicals, and other pollutants—down into the aquifer. For this reason, proper disposal of waste and careful use of chemicals are essential to protecting the quality of our drinking water supply.

The ECUA is well aware of this potential risk 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 at 16 wells for removal of iron or organic contaminants and assist with PFAS removal. Basic treatment for all wells includes calcium hydroxide (lime) for pH adjustment; phosphoric acid for corrosion control in the distribution system and home plumbing; and chlorine for disinfection. Hydrofluosilicic acid (fluoride) has historically been added at select wells to help prevent tooth decay. However, all fluoride treatment was discontinued in June 2025 to comply with Florida Senate Bill 700.

The ECUA also 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.

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.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this report or 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. The 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 Administrative Coordinator at (850) 969-3302, or visit us online at www.ecua.fl.gov. The ECUA Water Quality Report for 2026 will be published by July 1, 2027.

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.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

In 2025 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 61 potential sources of contamination identified for this system, with a low to moderate susceptibility level. The 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 https://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.

2025 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, 2025. 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 20 - Aug 23	No	6.3	ND - 6.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226+228 (pCi/L)	Apr 20 - Apr 24	No	3.66	ND - 3.66	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Antimony (ppb)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	0.24	ND - 0.24	6	6	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium (ppm)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	0.074	0.010 - 0.074	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	0.64	ND - 0.64	4	4	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	2.50	ND - 2.50	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)**	May 23 - Apr 24	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 23 - Apr 24	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 23 - Apr 24	No	0.1	ND - 0.1	2	2	Erosion from natural deposits; discharge from refineries & factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nickel (ppb)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	1.5	ND - 1.5	n/a	100	Pollution from mining & refining operations. natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	Mar 25 - Aug 25	No	3.7	0.28 - 3.7	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	9.3	2.7 - 9.3	n/a	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil
Thallium (ppb)	May 23 - Apr 24	No	0.07	ND - 0.07	0.5	2	Leaching from ore processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Sampling Dates (mo/yr)	MCL Violation	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely source of contamination
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	Jan - Oct 25	No	0.19 avg.	ND - 0.76	0	3	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	Jan - Oct 25	No	0.49 avg.	ND - 0.78	0	3	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories

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 25	No	0.78 avg.	0.70-0.82	4 MRDLG	4.0 MRDL	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	Jan - Oct 25	No	26 avg.	ND - 2.4	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 Exceedance Y/N	90th percentile	No. of sites exceeding the AL	Range of Results	MCLG	AL	Likely source of contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	July - Aug 23	No	0.33	0	0.0031-0.38	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 ECUA Water Production Regulatory Compliance Coordinator at (850)969-6659.
** All fluoride treatment was discontinued in June 2025 to comply with Florida Senate Bill 700.

2025 TABLE OF SYSTEM-WIDE AVERAGES*

REGULATED VOC'S	REGULATORY MCL	AVERAGED CONCENTRATION
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	3	0.042
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	3	0.041
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	**REGULATORY MCL**	**AVERAGED CONCENTRATION**
Antimony (ppb)	6	0.003
Barium (ppm)	2	0.025
Beryllium (ppb)	4	0.016
Chromium (ppb)	100	0.272
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.550
Lead (ppb)	15	0.006
Mercury (ppb)	2	0.011
Nickel (ppb)	100	0.288
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	1.501
Sodium (ppm)	160	4.775
Thallium (ppb)	2	0.000

*Represents data from most recent sampling events since 2023

The 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 January 1 to December 31, 2025. Data obtained before January 1, 2025, and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER NOTICES

Occasionally, drinking water distribution systems experience disruptions caused by main breaks, planned maintenance, or total 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. The ECUA makes every effort possible to keep our customers informed as to the quality of our water. The status of all PBWN's can be obtained any time of day by calling the ECUA SCADA office at (850) 969-3343. Media releases for PBWNs can be found online at www.ecua.fl.gov or on the MyECUA mobile app. 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. If you opt-in, you may receive notifications affecting your area.

STATEMENT ABOUT CROSS-CONNECTION

The ECUA has recently entered a Consent Agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection to assure full compliance with FDEP regulations. 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 potential backflow hazards to the municipal potable water supply. We are continuing to implement our adopted Cross-Connection Control Program to improve backflow testing rates, and some residential backflow preventers still need installation and testing.

LEAD AND COPPER

The most recent 2023 analytical results indicate that the ECUA meets the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule.

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 ECUA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water.

The ECUA has been participating in the EPA's national inventory to identify all service lines connected to community drinking water distribution systems to determine if any of these pipes contain lead. We are pleased to report that all of the service lines connected to our system have been identified as non-lead. Our service line inventory can be accessed on our Line Verification Project webpage at ecua.fl.gov/live-green/line-verification.

If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact the ECUA at mywatersvc@ecua.fl.gov or by calling 850-969-3335 and we can provide information on where to get your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. Please note that the ECUA does not provide lead and copper testing or sampling services. The cost for the testing is paid by the customer and is determined by the chosen private lab.

PFAS Update

PFAS are man-made chemicals often found in common consumer products such as coatings, like food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, personal care products, cosmetics and more. Certain types of firefighting foams—historically used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports to fight oil and gasoline fires—may also contain PFAS. The rapidly increasing use of PFAS products over decades has led to PFAS now being present in the environment, including ground water and surface water sources which most public and private drinking water utilities use as a source of their raw water.

The ECUA is currently testing for PFAS as part of new EPA regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Water systems must meet the newly implemented drinking water standards by the 2029 compliance deadline, although the EPA has indicated that they plan to extend the deadline to 2031.

Our initial test results will be included in the 2026 Water Quality Report, which will be available by July 1, 2027. The ECUA already has GAC treatment systems installed at the majority of our wells that remove PFAS along with other contaminants. We are working diligently to install cost-effective PFAS treatment systems at the remaining facilities, where needed, in advance of the compliance deadline. Additional information related to PFAS is available on our website at ecua.fl.gov/live-green/our-water-supply.