

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Spring Lake Improvement District
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Sebring, Florida 33876-6143
(863) 655-1715 Clay Shrum, Water Superintendent

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed of the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you a dependable supply of drinking water.

This report will be mailed to customers in the Spring Lake Breeze and is also available at the District Office, located at 115 Spring Lake Boulevard.

Our water source is wells; our wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Chlorine is added for disinfection and an orthophosphosphate blend is added for corrosion inhibition.

The Department of Environmental Protection has performed a "Source Water Assessment" on our system. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. Potential sources of contamination identified include underground petroleum storage tanks. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection program at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Clay Shrum, Water Superintendent at (863) 655-1715**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. **They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:00 p.m. at the Spring Lake District Office.**

Spring Lake Improvement District routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms 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, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

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

"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 by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter: one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

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

N/A: Not applicable

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.

Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE): An important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). The IDSE is a one-time study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR.

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. It can also 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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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. Immune-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 (800-426-4791)**.

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. Spring Lake Improvement District 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>.

As you can see by the following table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State Requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We at Spring Lake Improvement District would like for 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 contact our office.

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
Inorganic Contaminants							
11. Barium (ppm)	March 2008	N	0.101	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
16. Fluoride (ppm)	March 2008	N	0.28	N/A	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
20. Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	March 2008	N	0.04	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
21. Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	March 2008	N	0.01	N/A	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer Use; leaching from Septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
23. Sodium (ppm)	March 2008	N	8.82	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Radiological Contaminants							
5. Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	April 2008	N	3.2	N/A	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
6. Radium 226 +228 or Combined radium (pCi/L)	April 2008	N	2.4	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs and Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the following parameters monitored under Stage 1 D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the highest annual average of the quarterly averages: Bromate, Chloramines, Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids, and/or TTHM (MCL 80 ppb). Range of Results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites. For TTHMs monitored under rules adopted before the Stage 1 D/DBP rules (MCL = 100 ppb), the level detected is the highest running annual average calculated quarterly. The Range of Results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites. 							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
78. Chlorine (ppm)	Jan. 08 to Dec. 08	N	1.34	0.7-1.8	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
79. Haloacetic Acids (five) HAA5 (ppb)	Sept. 4, 2008	N	15.5	N/A	NA	MCL = 60/100	By-product of drinking water disinfection
80. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Sept. 9, 2008	N	49.44	N/A	NA	MCL = 80/100	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
84. Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Sept 08	N	0.26	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives