2024 Water Quality Report
CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH, FLORIDA

We are very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our constant goal is to provide you with safe and dependable drinking water. We want you—our valued customers—to understand our water quality results and what they mean.

Our water source is the **Floridan Aquifer**, which is similar to a large underground river. Groundwater is pumped from five wells that are approximately 700 to 1000 feet deep. This water is aerated to remove sulfides and chlorinated for disinfection at the three separate Water Treatment Plants. Corrosion control treatment is also provided. Trained, state certified plant operators ensure proper treatment of nearly three million gallons per day of water provided to our customers. **We are pleased to report that our drinking water quality meets all Federal and State requirements.**

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mr. Troy Stephens, Public Utilities Director at 904-247-5875.

If you want to become informed about upcoming water-related projects or programs, please attend any of our City Commission meetings which are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 800 Seminole Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233.

The City of Atlantic Beach routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. Data obtained before January 1, 2024 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

As authorized and approved by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), 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.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table are the only ones detected in your drinking water.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, 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 micro-biological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791**.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Atlantic Beach is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing 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 can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Mr. Troy Stephens, Public Utilities Director at 904-247-5875. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead action level at 15 ppb. For a water system to be in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90^{th} percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review at the utility office.

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. We have completed a service line inventory, and

it is available for review at the utility office.

In 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are twelve potential sources of contamination identified for our system with low susceptibility levels. To protect our source waters, the City enacted a Wellhead Protection Ordinance. Also, FDEP has a very active petroleum contamination prevention program, and handles permitting and enforcement for both domestic and hazardous wastes. FDEP has some of the most stringent rules in the country. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. We at the City of Atlantic Beach work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources.

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In the table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL) — The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which 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 (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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.

Non-Detects (ND) — Means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Not Applicable (N/A) – The information does not apply in this category or for this contaminant.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – One part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

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.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/l) – Measure of the radioactivity in 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.

ATLANTIC BEACH WATER QUALITY DATA 2024

(*Results in the HLD column are the highest detected level at any sampling point)*

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Sample Date (mo./yr.)	Maximum Level Allowed (MCL or MRDL)	Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Highest Level Detected (HLD)	Range of Results	Typical Source of Contaminant	MCL Violation (Y/N)
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	02/2023	2	2	0.025	0.024 – 0.025	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	N
Fluoride (ppm)	02/2023	4.0	4	0.59	0.55 – 0.59	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.	N
Sodium (ppm)	02/2023	160	N/A	12	11 -12	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil	N

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
For bromate, chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.							
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**
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2024	N	1.8	1.3 – 2.3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	04/2024 10/2024	N	26.35	17.17-26.35	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	04/2024 10/2024	N	35.56	23.47-35.56	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper Tap Sampling

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Sample Date (mo/yr)	AL (Action Level)	MCLG	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Likely Source of Contamination	AL Exceeded Y/N
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/2023	1.3	1.3	0.0722	0 of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	N
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	08/2023	15	0	0.8	1 of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	N