

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Pluris South Gate, Inc. (PWS ID # 6588003)

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide you a clean and dependable supply of drinking water. Drinking water for Pluris South Gate Inc. customers is a blend of treated well water pumped daily from the Floridan Aquifer, and treated surface water from the Peace River and Manatee River. The surface water from the Peace River and Manatee River is purified by carbon absorption, coagulation, sedimentation and filtration. Sarasota County operates twenty eight wells which pump water daily from the Floridan Aquifer ranging from 400 to 720 feet deep. This water is blended with water provided by Peace River and treated by various physical and chemical processes, including aeration, filtration and disinfection.

Source Water Assessment Plan

In 2016, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on Sarasota County. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the wells and surface water intakes. The assessment showed 7 potential sources of contamination with a susceptibility level of low near the wells. The assessment results for Sarasota County are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

- *This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.*

Pluris South Gate, Inc. does not currently hold regular public meetings. Should the Utility hold a public meeting, you will be notified through the mail or public notice. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Joseph M. Kuhns at (863) 940-9771.

Pluris South Gate, Inc., Peace River, Manatee River and Sarasota County routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. Data obtained before January 1, 2016 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

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.*
- 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.*
- Action Level (AL): *The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*
- 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.*
- Treatment Technique (TT): *A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*
- N/A: *Not applicable, does not apply.*
- NR: *Not regulated*
- ND: *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 (µg/l) – *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.*
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – *measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.*
- Variations and Exemptions – *State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.*

NON-SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Microbiological Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL Highest monthly number of positive samples	The Highest Monthly Number	The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	MCL violation
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples	1	NA	Naturally present in the environment	Monthly	No
Turbidity (NTU)							
Manatee	N/A	TT	0.44	93.1%	Soil runoff	Daily	No
Peace River	N/A	TT	0.05	100%	Soil runoff	Daily	No
RADIOACTIVE							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling date	MCL violation
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	5.97	ND – 5.97	Erosion of natural deposits	2016	No
Combined radium (pCi/L)	0	5	1.20	ND – 1.20	Erosion of natural deposits	2016	No
INORGANIC							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	MCL violation
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	.51	ND – .51 (M)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	Feb-2016	No
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.011	ND - 0.011	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	Feb-2016	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.81	0.13 - 0.81	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	Feb-2016	No
Nickel (ppb)	N/A	100	.2	ND-.2(P)	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil	Feb-2016	No
Sodium(ppm)	N/A	160	84	31-84	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil	Feb-2016	No
NITRATES & NITRITES							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	MCL violation
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.24	0.1 – 0.37	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	2/2016	No
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	MCLG	MCL	Level detected	Range of monthly removal ratios	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	TT violation

Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	Manatee Peace River	N/A N/A	TT TT	1.33C 1.55C	.80 – 1.58 1.36 – 1.88	Naturally present in the environment	Monthly 2016 Monthly 2016	No No
TTHMs and STAGE 1 DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT (D/DBP)								
For the following parameters monitored under Stage 1 D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the annual average of the quarterly averages; Bromate, Chloramines, Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids and/or TTHM (MCL 80ppb). Range of results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	MCL violation	
Chloramines (mg/L)	4E	4F	3.4C	0.60 – 5.70	Water additive used to control microbes	Daily 2016	No	
TTHMs and STAGE 2 DISINFECTANT/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT (D/DBP)								
For the following parameters monitored under Stage 2 D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the annual average of the quarterly averages; Bromate, Chloramines, Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids and/or TTHM (MCL 80ppb). Range of results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Level detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	MCL violation	
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	20.24	2.02 – 30.4D	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly 2016	No	
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	0	80	40.95	34.5 – 52.3D	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Quarterly 2016	No	
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	AL (action level)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	Likely Source of Contamination	Sampling Date	AL exceeded	
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.17	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	July-14	No	

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

Pluris South Gate Inc. Level 1 Assessment:

In May of 2016 we were required to conduct a Level 1 Assessment due to testing positive for Total Coliform in five compliance sample sites. Within 24 hours, repeat samples were collected at all of the affected sites and all tested negative for Total Coliform. A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems. The Level 1 Assessment was completed on 5-17-16 and accepted by the Sarasota County Health Department thereafter. As additional corrective action, Pluris South Gate staff completed refresher training on sampling procedure, sampling equipment, and regulatory reporting. A revised distribution flushing plan was also approved and initiated.

Monitoring Violation: Manatee County Water Treatment Plant

Pluris South Gate Inc. is required to report on monitoring violations that may have occurred at any water system that produces the water that we purchase. We purchase 100% of our water from Sarasota County who in turn purchases some of their water from Manatee County. On August 10, 2016 a Total Coliform sample taken at the Manatee County Water Treatment Plant tested positive for total coliform. By rule, three repeat samples were to be taken within 24 hours to determine if there were problems with water distribution or treatment. Only one of the required three samples was taken which violated monitoring requirements and initiated a Level 1 Assessment. Although the quality of the drinking water cannot be confirmed during that time, the results of the recollect and the results of the other samples collected on August 10, 2016 and throughout the month indicate the water met drinking water standards.

Sarasota County Level 1 Assessment:

During 2016 Sarasota County was required to conduct a Level 1 Assessment due to the monitoring violation on August 10, 2016. The Level 1 Assessment was completed in September 2016 and determined that improperly following in-place sampling procedure was the cause of the missed samples. Sarasota County was required to take corrective action, which included retraining the staff members responsible for the collection of water samples on proper sampling procedures to ensure all samples are collected as required. The corrective action was completed in September 2016.

- C – These values represent an annual average
- D – These values represent values at individual sample sites
- E – This value is a MRDLG (see definition above)
- F – This value is a MRDL (see definition above)

(M) – Manatee County Water Source
(PR) – Peace River Water Source

The Environmental Protection Agency requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the tables above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.

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. Pluris South Gate, Inc. 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>.

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:

- 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 by-products 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.

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.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at Pluris South Gate, Inc. 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 insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.