



FLORIDA GOVERNMENTAL UTILITY AUTHORITY (FGUA)

# 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Lehigh Acres Division PWS ID#5360172

*Este informe continene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúscalo ó hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.*

WE'RE PLEASED TO PRESENT TO YOU THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT.

*This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want 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 call any of the numbers listed.*

## Where your water comes from

The water source for the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) Lehigh Acres Division is ground water that is withdrawn from the Sandstone Aquifer. The water is treated by aeration, lime softening, and filtration. Finally, the water is disinfected using chlorine and ammonia before it is delivered to customers.

## How we ensure your drinking water is safe

The FGUA routinely monitors 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, 2008. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data in the water quality summary table are more than one year old but are based on the most recent water analyses performed and are representative of the water quality.

## Source Water Assessments

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2008. This assessment was conducted to

provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 13 potential sources of contamination identified for this system with moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the **FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp)**.

## How to read the table on the next page

The terms used in the water quality summary table and in other parts of this report are defined below.

**Action level (AL)** – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE)** – an important part of the Stage 2 Disinfection By-products 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.

**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.

**Million fibers per liter (MFL)** – measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**N/A** – not applicable

**ND** – means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**ppm** – parts per million or milligrams per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample.

**ppb** – parts per billion or micrograms per liter is one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**pCi/l** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

## FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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 (1-800-426-4791)**.

## Additional health information

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.

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**.

## How to reach us

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, **please contact your local FGUA office at (239) 368-1615 or visit our website at [www.fgua.com](http://www.fgua.com)**. The FGUA office is open from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The FGUA encourages its customers to become involved in decisions that may affect the quality of their drinking water. Customers interested in becoming involved may attend regularly scheduled meetings of the FGUA Board of Directors. These meetings are advertised in your local newspaper and also on the website.



## 2008 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY TABLE – PWS ID NO. 5360172

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	Monthly 2008	N	1	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month	Naturally present in the environment	
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL/AL Violation Y/N	Level Detected <sup>A</sup>	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>RADIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	2/08, 5/08, 12/08	N	4.8	3.2 – 4.8	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/l)	2/08, 5/08, 12/08	N	1.2	0.8 – 1.2	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	2/08, 5/08	N	1.1	ND – 1.1	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Asbestos (MFL)	6/08, 7/08, 9/08, 12/08	N	1.8	ND - 11	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	0.021	0.006 – 0.021	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	0.22	ND – 0.22	4	4	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.
Nickel (ppb)	2/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	1	ND - 1	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2/08, 3/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	0.42	ND – 0.42	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	2/08, 3/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	0.4	ND – 0.4	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	2/08, 5/08, 11/08	N	135	63.3 - 135	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
<b>STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>							
Chloramines (ppm)	1/08 – 12/08	N	2.21	0.6 – 4.7	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
HAA5s (Haloacetic acids) (five) (ppb)	3/08, 5/08, 8/08, 12/08	N	12.97	2.85 – 32.4	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	3/08, 5/08, 8/08, 12/08	N	38.08	4.85 - 274	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)</b>							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	3/08, 4/08, 9/08, 10/08	N	0.396 (90th percentile)	0 samples > AL	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb) <sup>B</sup>	3/08, 4/08, 9/08, 10/08	N	2 (90th percentile)	1 sample > AL	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected <sup>P</sup>	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS</b>							
Color (color units) <sup>C</sup>	1/08, 2/08, 5/08, 9/08, 11/08	N	25	ND - 25	N/A	15	Naturally occurring organics
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm) <sup>D</sup>	2/08 – 12/08	N	808	440 - 808	N/A	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

### Table Notes:

A. Results in the level detected column for radiological and inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level or the highest average at any of the sampling points, depending on the sampling frequency. For microbiological contaminants, the highest monthly number is the highest monthly number of positive samples. The result in the level detected column for chloramines is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of the monthly averages of all samples collected. The result in the level detected column for TTHMs and HAA5s is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of the quarterly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of individual sample results for all monitoring locations, including IDSE results and Stage 1 compliance results. For lead and copper, the data reported is for the most recent sampling event.

B. 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 FGUA 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>.

C. Three color samples had results of 15, 20, and 25 color units in 2008 even though the annual average of all results in 2008 was below the MCL. The result shown in the level detected column is the highest single sample result for all color samples in 2008. Color is considered to be an aesthetic violation and there are no known health effects. We are investigating minor plant modifications in an effort to reduce color.

D. The Lehigh water system was issued a variance for total dissolved solids on December 11, 2007. This contaminant is naturally occurring in our source water at 650–780 ppm, whereas the standard is 500 ppm. Because it is regulated as a secondary (non health-based) contaminant and because the current treatment facility does not have the ability to remove this parameter, the FGUA was granted a variance. We are complying with the terms of the variance and plan to install an effective treatment process for reducing this parameter and developing an alternative water source by the deadline provided in the terms of the variance. Members of the public interested in providing comments or suggestions in the renewal of the variance or exemption should contact us for further information at the number listed on this report.