

2009 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of LaBelle

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual 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. Our water source(s) is the intermediate aquifer. The water is treated with Aluminum Chlorhydrate (color removal) then filtered, and treated with chloramines for disinfection. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Michael Boyle at 863-675-2872. The City of LaBelle 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. **Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Por favor llame (863) 675-4684 para ayuda en traducir o entender este informe.**

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 that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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 to not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

“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 (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.

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 Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system in 2008. 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, and wastewater treatment plants. The risk is moderate. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

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
Radiological Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	4/08	N	6	NA	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	4/08	N	1.6	NA	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants							
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
Barium (ppm)	4/08	N	0.025	NA	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Monthly	N	.88	.06-1.5	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
Sodium (ppm)	4/08	N	25.3	NA	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Chromium (ppb)	4/08	N	1	NA	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	12/09	N	.21	NA	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	12/09	N	0.00	NA	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	4/08	N	3	NA	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.

The result in the Level Detected column for TTHMs is the highest of the four quarterly running annual averages of results from all 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
Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters							
Chloramines (ppm)	Monthly	N	.3	.3 - 4.0	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly	N	14.01	.27-20.9	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Quarterly	N	51.73	1.7-162.9	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
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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
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Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/07	N	1.23	1	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/07	N	1	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
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Secondary Contaminants

Color (color units)	Monthly	Y	25	0-25	15	Naturally occurring organics
Iron (ppm)	Quarterly	N	0.11	0.0-0.11	0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

As you can see above we had maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation for Color. We also had three exceedances for TTHMs and the running annual average was above the MCL. The 3rd and 4th quarters of 2009 and the 1st quarter of 2010 the TTHMs have been well below the MCL. In 2008 the City of LaBelle signed a Consent Order with the Department of Environmental Protection to address the Color MCL violation and the need for a new water treatment plant. 2008 the City began using an additional treatment chemical to help reduce the Color levels in the drinking water. In December 2008 the City submitted a permit application to the DEP for a new water treatment plant. Once the permit is issued the City has 24 months to complete construction of the new water treatment plant. LaBelle will be adding a Nano-filtration unit to the existing plant, this change in treatment is expected to be on line by August 2010.

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 City of LaBelle 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>.

TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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.

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).