

**Board of Directors** Ted Schrader, Karl Nurse, Dave Eggers, Ken Hagan, Jack Mariano, Rob Marlowe, Charlie Miranda, John Morroni, Sandra Murman

**General Manager** Matthew W. Jordan

**General Counsel** Barrie S. Buenaventura, *Pennington, P.A.*

2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, FL 33763-1102

Phone: 727.796.2355 / Fax: 727.791.2388

[www.tampabaywater.org](http://www.tampabaywater.org)



# **TAMPA BAY WATER**

## **Wholesale Provider to Pasco, Hillsborough & Pinellas**

### **2015 Report to Consumers on Water Quality**

#### **REGIONAL POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the past year. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual Consumer Confidence Report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from and what it contains. Tampa Bay Water is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Tampa Bay Water's Board of Directors meetings occur on the third Monday of every other month, at 9:30 am at 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, FL 33763-1102. The public is welcome. Find out more about Tampa Bay Water on the Internet at [www.tampabaywater.org](http://www.tampabaywater.org).

#### **Water Source**

Tampa Bay Water's Regional Potable Water Supply System is a blended water supply composed of groundwater, treated surface water and desalinated seawater. Eleven different wellfields pumping water from the Floridan Aquifer are the primary sources for the regional groundwater supply. The Alafia River, Hillsborough River, C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir and the Tampa Bypass Canal are the primary supplies for the regional treated surface water supply. Hillsborough Bay is the primary supply of seawater for the regional desalinated supply. After treatment, all of these potable water supplies meet stringent Safe Drinking Water Standards as set by the USEPA and the State of Florida.

#### **How to Read This Table**

Tampa Bay Water 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, 2015. Data obtained before January 1, 2015 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

The table shows the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to the units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important. 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 data, though representative, are more than one year old.

## Required Additional Health Information

As a regional potable water provider, Tampa Bay Water has determined that it is a prudent practice to maintain disinfection residuals higher than the regulatory minimums in our regional water systems. These higher levels ensure the microbial safety throughout our vast distribution network and to our most distant customers.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's 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. Tampa Bay Water 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://epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Tampa Bay Water constantly monitors for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. 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).

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 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 storm 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, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

- D. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The most recent Source Water Assessments performed by the Department of Environmental Protection was during 2014 for Tampa Bay Water facilities. The assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the Tampa Bay Water surface water intakes. The Regional Surface Water System is considered to be at high risk because of the many potential sources of contamination present in the assessment area. 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)

### **National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance**

This report was prepared by Tampa Bay Water. For more information, call Tampa Bay Water at (727) 796-2355 or (813) 996-7009.

