

City of Florence Utilities

Water Department

2006 Annual Water Quality Report

The City of Florence Water Department is pleased to provide you, our customer, our annual Water Quality Report for 2006. The City of Florence Utilities Water Department is committed to providing the residents of Florence and Lauderdale County with the safest and highest quality drinking water possible. Daily testing is done at our treatment facilities using sophisticated equipment and the most advanced procedures, and the water produced by the City of Florence Utilities Water Department meets or surpasses both state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. This annual "Water Quality Report", which is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what tests by independent laboratories show about it, and other information you should know about your drinking water.

But, most importantly:

The City of Florence Utilities Department's drinking water met or surpassed all federal and state drinking water standards during 2006.

For information about how you can participate in decisions or for general information about your drinking water, call us at (256) 760-6637 or consult our Web site at www.florenceutilities.com Information can also be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

OVERVIEW

The City of Florence Utilities Water Department drinking water is supplied by surface water from the Tennessee River and Cypress Creek. Modern, state of the art surface water treatment facilities using the most up to date technology treats the water from these two sources. In addition, we pump ground water from two wells in the Killen and Center Star areas of Lauderdale County, which is blended with the treated surface water sources. The well sources supply these areas only in Killen.

The City of Florence utilizes mixing, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration in their treatment process. Also, chlorine is used for disinfection, fluoride for dental protection, and lime for pH treatment.

WHAT DO THESE TABLES MEAN?

It's easy! Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The **Table of Primary Contaminants** provides an overview of some primary contaminants that are known to pose a health risk to humans. In the **Table of Detected Contaminants**, the column marked Amount Detected shows the highest test results during the year. Sources of Contaminant Level show where this substance usually originates. The **Table of Secondary Contaminants** lists regulated contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water. Columns headed MCL and MCLG refer to:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant that 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 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.

Key to Tables

AL	=	Action Level	pci/l	=	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
MCL	=	Maximum Contaminant Level	ppm	=	parts per million, milligrams per liter (mg/l)
MCLG	=	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ppb	=	parts per billion, micrograms per liter (ug/l)
NTU	=	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	TT	=	Treatment Technique – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
ND	=	Not Detected			

Table of Primary Contaminants

At high levels primary contaminants are known to pose a health risk to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
Bacteriological			Endothall	100	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	< 5%	<1%	Endrin	2	ND
Turbidity	TT	0.19	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Radiological			Glyphosate	700	ND
Beta/photon emitters (mrem/yr)	4	ND	Heptachlor	400	ND
Alpha emitters (pci/l)	15	ND	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ND
Uranium	30	ND	Hexachloropentadiene	1	ND
Inorganic			Lindane	200	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Methoxychlor	40	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	50	ND	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	PCBs	500	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	ND	Pentachlorophenol	1	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Picloram	500	ND
Cadmium	5	ND	Simazine	4	ND
Chromium	100	ND	Toxaphene	3	ND
Copper	AL=1.3	0.62	Benzene	5	ND
Cyanide	200	ND	Carbon Tetrachloride	5	ND
Fluoride	4	1.20	Chlorobenzene	100	ND
Lead	AL=15	0.006	Dibromochloropropane	200	ND
Mercury	2	ND	0-Dichlorobenzene	600	ND
Nitrate	10	1.48	p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ND
Nitrite	1	ND	1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ND
Selenium	50	ND	1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ND
Thallium	2	ND	Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ND
Organic Chemicals			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ND
2,4-D	70	ND	Dichloromethane	5	ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	Ethylbenzene	700	ND
Alachlor	2	ND	Ethylene dibromide	50	ND
Atrazine	3	ND	Styrene	100	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs]	200	ND	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ND
Carbofuran	40	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	70	ND
Chlordane	2	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ND
Dalapon	200	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ND
Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ND	Trichloroethylene	5	ND
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalates	6	ND	TTHM	100	45.79
Dinoseb	7	ND	Toluene	1	ND
Diquat	20	ND	Vinyl Chloride	2	ND
Dioxin[2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ND	Xylenes	10	ND
Chloramines	4		TOC	TT	2.9
Chlorite	1		Chlorine	4	2.1
HAA5	60	26.59	Chlorine Dioxide	800	
			Bromate	10	

Table of Detected Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	MCLG	MCL	Range	Violation	Amount Detected		Likely Source of Contamination
Bacteriological		01/01/2006 - 12/31-2006					
Turbidity		7/21/2006					
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	< 5%		No	<1%	Present or Absent	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	0	TT		No	0.19	NTU	Soil runoff
Inorganic Chemicals		2/24/2006					
Copper	1.3	AL=1.3		NO	0.62	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride	4	4	0 - 1.20	NO	1.20	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	0	AL=15		NO	0.006	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	10	10	0.90 - 1.48	NO	1.48	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Organic Chemicals		01/01/2006 - 12/31-2006					
Chlorine	0	4	<0.1 - 2.1	NO	2.1	ppm	Disinfectant
HAA5	0	60	<7.9 - 63.3	NO	26.59	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	NA	TT	.5 - 2.9	NO	2.9	ppb	Naturally present in the environment
TTHM	0	80	<5.0 - 122	NO	45.79	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table of Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Units	Amount Detected
Alkalinity, Total	NA	ppm	57.6
Aluminum	< 0.20	ppm	< 0.05
Bromodichloromethane	NA	ppm	4.38
Calcium	NA	ppm	22.6
Carbon Dioxide	NA	ppm	8.8
Chloride	250	ppm	12.7

Chloroform	NA	ppm	11.6
Color	15.0	Units	< 5.0
Foaming Agents	0.50	ppm	< 0.05
Hardness	NA	ppm	70.8
Iron	0.30	ppm	< 0.05
Magnesium	NA	ppm	3.48
Manganese	0.01	ppm	< 0.01
Odor	3.0	Threshold Odor Number	< 1.0
pH	NA	ppm	7.08
Silver	0.10	ppm	< 0.05
Sulfate	500	ppm	13.3
Total Dissolved Solids	500	ppm	144
Zinc	5.0	ppm	<0.05

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised individuals, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. We currently monitor for Cryptosporidium and have had none detected.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

The City of Florence Utilities Water Department did not test, nor was it required to test, for Radon during 2006.

ASBESTOS and DIOXIN

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus monitoring for these contaminants is not required.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

The City of Florence Water Department has performed source water assessments for the Wilson Lake Treatment Plant located on the Wilson Lake (Tennessee River) and the Cypress Creek Treatment Plant located on Cypress Creek. In addition, assessments have been completed for Peck Lane and Houston Hill's wells located in the Killen and Center Star areas. This information may be viewed in the Water Department office between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Appointments for reviewing are recommended.

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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 small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 (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) Microbiological 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 natural 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 agricultural, storm water 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 storm water 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, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION COMPLIANCE

This 2006 Annual Water Quality Report was prepared by Michael Doyle and Regina Hall of the City of Florence Utilities Water Department using technical assistance and guidance from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

We will be pleased to answer any questions about the City of Florence Water Department and our water quality. Call our offices at (256) 760-6637 on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The City of Florence Utilities Water/Wastewater Department operates under the authority of the Mayor and Council of the City of Florence, Alabama. The City Council meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Learn more about the City of Florence Utilities Water Department water system at www.florenceutilities.com.