

2015

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



DESTIN WATER USERS, INC.

2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For Destin Water Users, Inc.

This report will be available on our website to all of our customers and is also available at the Destin Water Users Administrative Office at 218 Main St., Destin, FL.

*We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. The water quality report is an annual publication that is **required** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 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 is ground water from our 6 coastal wells and purchased water from South Walton Utility Company, Inc. All these wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required at Destin Water Users and South Walton is chlorine and Sodium Hypochlorite for disinfection purposes.*

In 2015, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and the system from whom we purchase water. There are seventeen potential sources of contamination identified for Destin Water Users' system with a low susceptibility range. There are five potential sources of contamination for South Walton Utility Company, with a low susceptibility range. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

If you have any other questions about the SWAPP information, this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Destin Water Users, Inc. Laboratory Director, Peggy McDeavitt at 850-837-6146 Ext. 3929 during office hours. We encourage you, our valued customers, to be informed about your water utility. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at 4p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the main office at 218 Main St.

Destin Water Users (DWU) 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, 2015 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.

In the following table, 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 which, 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 do 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 billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): *One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.*

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.*

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): *Measure of the radioactivity in water.*

2015 Contaminants Table

Microbiological Contaminants (See Note 2)						
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	1-12/2015	N	1	0	For systems collecting fewer than 40 samples per month: presence of coliform bacteria in 1 sample collected during a month.	Naturally present in the environment

Radiological Contaminants (See Note 1)

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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	01/08-04/14	N	4.9	ND-4.9	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	01/08-04/14	N	1.5	ND-1.5	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants (see Note 1)

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)	4/14-8/14	N	0.2	0.012-0.2	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4/14-8/14	N	0.9	ND-0.9	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7ppm
Lead (ppb) (point of entry)	4/14-8/14	N	7.5	ND-7.5	N/A	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nickel (ppb)	4/14-8/14	N	1	ND-1	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operation. Natural occurrence in soil.
Nitrate (ppm)	5/15-8/15	N	1.42	ND-1.42	N/A	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	4/14-8/14	N	140	ND-140	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products (See Note 2)

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Stage 1 Chlorine (ppm)	1-12/15	N	1.09	1.0-1.2	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	8/15	N	2.0	1.2-2.0	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)(ppb)	8/15	N	12.6	10-12.6	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)(See Note 2)

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	90 TH Percentile Results	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	8/14	N	0.15	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	8/14	N	2.5	1 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants (see Note 1)

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.
Iron (ppm)	8-10/14	N	0.36	ND - 0.36	N/A	0.3	Natural occurring from soil leaching.
Odor	8-10/14	N	8	ND - 8	N/A	3.0	Natural occurring organics.

1. Data is a compilation of Destin Water Users, Inc. and South Walton Utility Company, Inc.
2. Data sampled by Destin Water Users, Inc.

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. Destin Water Users, 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 State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standards for secondary contaminants and has determined that Iron and Color are an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. Iron and color were sampled on 08/19/14 and found at a higher level than is allowed by the State.

However rechecks of the samples on 10/14/14 and again on 10/28/14 and averaged with the original samples were below the MCL and thus not a violation. Iron, as a secondary drinking water contaminant, does not pose a health threat and is in fact required for human health in small amounts. Odor is an aesthetic concern, and it also, upon resampling, was averaged with the original sample and was below the MCL. We are currently in compliance with the secondary standards and will keep you informed if anything were to change.

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 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, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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 EPA 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

We at Destin Water Users, Inc. would like 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.