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SCDHEC Water System #0720001

**What's In The Pipe?** While the gift of our water comes from a higher power, its administration is in the hands of men and women who work hard to make sure your water is perfectly pure and always available. It is perhaps one of the ungrateful ironies of the public utility business that when all is well no one notices; which is what your utility leadership wants. There should be no surprises in this business, nor are there here. Hence this issue of *PipeLines* is respectfully dedicated to the Board of Commissioners and staff of the South Island Public Service District. We suggest you go to your sink, draw a tall cold glass of the precious stuff and drink a long and well-deserved toast.

**Speaking of Purity...** it's that time of year again. By law, an Annual Water Quality Report is required, by the Environmental Protection Agency, of all public water utilities to inform their customers about water quality. As regular readers of *PipeLines* well know by now, the water from your tap is about as pure as any you can find anywhere in the country.

**The Source of our Water...** is groundwater drawn from the Floridan and Cretaceous Aquifers. Your utility's Source Water Assessment Plan is available at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf). If you do not have Internet access, please contact Christine Todd at (843) 671-2907 to make arrangements to review this document.

**The Sources of Drinking Water (Both Tap Water and Bottle Water)...** include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- 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;
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- 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;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 1-800-426-4791.

**Looking at the Numbers...** the following report was generated via a variety of highly sophisticated lab tests for the monitoring period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 to detect a variety of water constituents and then compared against federally mandated maximum levels. The regulatory agencies allow some contaminants to be monitored less often than once a year. The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing. Data from previous monitoring periods are noted.

**What Does It All Mean?** As indicated by the data, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Note that we have learned through our monitoring and testing that while some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water is perfectly safe at these levels.

**Health and Water...** You should also know that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as people with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, those 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 microbial contaminants, as well as more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility in general, please contact Christine Todd at (843) 671-2907.

**Importante...** Este informe contiene informacion sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Your Commissioners Meet...** 8 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the SIPSD offices, 25 Bow Circle. The public is cordially invited and most welcome to attend.

**And Speaking of Our Commissioners...** there are a number of very positive facts worth noting:

- 🏆 Your utility has been rated AA+ by Standard and Poor's, representing the second highest bond rating available and the highest offered on revenue bonds in the state. This rating is only held by two other, much larger, entities in South Carolina. Among other things, this very high rating will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in very low interest rates and allow us to sidestep insurance needs on our upcoming bond issue;
- 🏆 We also have the lowest bond indebtedness as a ratio of capitalization;
- 🏆 Once taxes are considered (and SIPSD levies no taxes) you enjoy the lowest water and sewer rates in the state;
- 🏆 And according to a recent inspection by DHEC, we have the highest quality sewer treatment facility.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2009	9.3	4.09-9.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2009	41.1	4.23-41.1	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Fluoride	10/16/08	0.93	0.55 - 0.93	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	10/18/06	0.4	0.4 - 0.4	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# Sites over AL	Action Level Goal (ALG)	Action Level (AL)	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	9/26/07	0.107	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of Household plumbing systems
Lead	9/26/07	4	0	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

**Definitions:**

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.  
**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.  
**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.  
**ND:** Non-detects – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.  
**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.  
**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.  
**PCi/L or Picocuries per litre:** Picocuries per liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

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. South Island PSD 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 two 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). We have been monitored for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2 (UCMR2) in 2008. No detections were noted. If you would like to receive the list of contaminants monitored please contact Christine Todd at 671-2907.

**See You Next Time...** Remember that water is a gift to be savored and protected. Inspect your irrigation systems—are they wasting water? Look around the house. Save water wherever and whenever you can. We’re always interested in your comments, so please write: *PipeLines*, c/o South Island Public Service District, Post Office Box 5148, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938.



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