2012
Consumer Confidence Report

Conservation: Saving for our future one drop at a time!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Water Quality Report, 2012

The City of Punta Gorda Utility Department is pleased to present you with this annual Water Quality Report. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and its 1996 amendments ensure that the public health and safety is protected in the drinking water supply delivered to the consumer. This report is part of the SDWA requirements and is designed to illustrate how we are doing and to help you understand the efforts we make to improve the water treatment process while protecting our water resources. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Every employee of the Punta Gorda Utility Department is committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The water supply for the City of Punta Gorda customers comes from Shell and Prairie Creek watershed. In 2011 the Department of Environmental Protection Performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our surface water intakes. The 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 or they can be obtained from City of Punta Gorda Utility Department at 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda Fl. 33950, (941) 575-3339.

The City's water plant uses a conventional surface water treatment process of screening, aeration, flocculation, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Additionally, several chemicals are used to aid in the various processes. For example: aluminum sulfate as a coagulant aid; acid for control of pH; powdered activated carbon for taste and odor control; polymers to aid in sedimentation; chlorine plus ammonia to form chloramines for disinfection and to control Total Tri-Halo-Methane (TTHM) and Halo-Acetic-Acid (HAA5) development; caustic soda for pH control; and a corrosion control stabilizer within the distribution system to protect the water mains. Dosages and chemicals vary with the seasonal fluctuations of the Shell Creek source water. In addition to the treatment plant, plans for the distribution system include flushing to maintain water quality and upgrading of older lines for increased fire flows and water quality as well as a cross connection control program that includes regular backflow protector testing.

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 Punta Gorda 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 at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

GENERAL INFORMATION

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. Contaminant's that may is present in source water included:

(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, 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.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain 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. Those with compromised immune systems, 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. The Environmental Protection Agency and or centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants. These are available from the Safe Drinking Water Website:
www.epa.gov/safewater

DEFINITIONS

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum residual disinfectant (MCL) 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 contaminates.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG): The level of 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 contaminates.

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: one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

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

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): Measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Detected Compounds: Listed are the compounds detected in Punta Gorda's drinking water during 2007. The SDWA requires that the highest detected value be provided. Not listed are the numerous other compounds tested for, but not detected.

Inorganic Parameters: The mineral type compounds, such as metals and salts, found in drinking water.

Microbial Parameters: Disease causing organisms that, at certain levels, may be harmful.

Radiochemical Parameters: Compounds found in drinking water which emit radiation.

Secondary Parameters: The compounds which affect drinking water aesthetics such as taste, odor, color and hardness.

Source: The major sources of the compounds detected in the drinking water.

Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5): Compounds formed during the disinfection of drinking water with chlorine.

Unregulated Organic Contaminants: There are no MCL's for unregulated compounds but they are monitored for in water samples to determine or evaluate which compounds, if any should be considered for regulation.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	2	2	10/30/12	N	0.025	N/A	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	N/A	0.100	10/30/12	N	0.00080	N/A	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil.
Sodium (ppm)	N/A	160	10/30/12	N	63	N/A	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	1/14/12	N	0.06	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (m/yr)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Results	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper Tap Water (ppm)	6/13/12	N	0.11	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead Tap Water (ppb)	6/13/12	N	0.0011	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, Leaching from wood preservatives

Secondary Contaminants

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Dissolved Solids(ppm)	N/A	500	Monthly	Y *	668	276-668	Natural occurrence from soil leaching * TDS EXEMPTION ALLOWS 1000
Aluminum (ppm)	N/A	0.200	10/30/12	N	0.0085	N/A	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Chloride (ppm)	N/A	250	10/30/12	N	72	N/A	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Manganese (ppm)	N/A	0.050	10/30/12	N	0.022	N/A	Natural occurrence from soil leaching
Sulfate (ppm)	N/A	250	10/30/12	N	126	N/A	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	4	4.0	Jan-Dec 2012	N	2.6	1.9-3.2	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
"Haloacetic Acids (five)(HAA5) (ppm)"	N/A	60	Quarterly	N	30	5-50	By product of drinking water chlorination
"TTHM(TotalTrihalomethanes) (ppm)"	N/A	80	Quarterly	N	58	29-78	By product of drinking water chlorination

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	TT Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Monthly Removal Ratios	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT	Monthly	N	1.59	1.36-1.95	Naturally present in the environment

Radiological Contaminants

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	N/A	15	10/30/12	N	2.5	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226+228 (pCi/L)	N/A	5	10/30/12	N	1.4	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Number of positive Samples	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	2	Jan-Dec 2012	N	1	0-1	Naturally present in the environment

Contaminants and Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo./yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	Jan-Dec 2012	N	0.43	97.3 %	Soil runoff

SPECIAL NOTES

Cryptosporidium and Giardia: Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microscopic organisms, which can enter surface waters from run off containing animal wastes. If ingested they cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastro intestinal symptoms. The City has monitored for Giardia and Cryptosporidium in the past and the organisms were not detected in either the source water or the finished water. Currently the City is testing again for Cryptosporidium and Giardia over the next 24 months.

Turbidity: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms, these organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Sodium: Softeners to reduce calcium hardness at home that use salt to regenerate may contribute increased levels of sodium in the drinking water. Consumers that are on reduced salt (sodium) diets should consider this in cooking and drinking.

For More Information About:

Water Quality: Call the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.

For questions concerning this report or the water treatment process: Contact the City Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057

Water Conservation and use restrictions: Contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District at (800) 423-1476 or the City Utility Department at (941) 575-3339 or visit the City's Website at www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us and follow the links to the Utility Department.

The City of Punta Gorda City Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in City Hall located at 326 West Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, Florida.

The City of Punta Gorda City Council has also appointed a Utility Advisory Board of local citizens which meets the fourth Monday of each month at 9:00 AM in City Hall. All meetings are noticed and open to the public.

The City of Punta Gorda Utility Department works around the clock to provide the best service and water quality possible. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. THANK YOU

Notice of Drinking Water Exemption

On June 22, 2011 the city received an Exemption from Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) standard from the Department of Environmental Protection due to the fact that the treated water does not meet the current MCL of 500 mg/L at times throughout the year. The exemption allows the city to exceed the current 500 mg/l standard to a level of 1,000 mg/l for a period of five years renewable for an additional 5 years provided the peak demand for water remains at a level below the maximum capacity of the existing plant (10 million gallons per day).The City is reviewing options for the correction of the situation. The next opportunity for public input will be during the renewal process in 2016.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information please contact: The City of Punta Gorda Utility Department at 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda Fl. 33950, (941) 575-3339. Or contact The Department of Environmental Protection potable water compliance/enforcement section at (239) 344-5600.

Total Dissolved Solids Testing 2012

Month	ppm	Month	ppm
Jan	484	July	448
Feb	564	Aug	444
Mar	612	Sept	308
Apr	600	Oct	276
May	668	Nov	432
June	604	Dec	496

WATER RATES

The City utility budget is solely supported by the revenue generated from utility impact fees and rates. The City water rate structure is multi-faceted to meet several objectives. The costs are in two categories, fixed (costs the utility incurred regularly without regard to the volume produced), and variable (costs associated with the volumes of water produced). There is also a difference in rates based on location, inside the City and outside the City limits. This is followed by a difference in volume of water consumed or used, the higher the volume, higher the costs per thousand.

Flat rate by meter size, plus costs per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit)

	Inside		Outside	
Meter Size	Flat Rate	Cost per ERU	Flat Rate	Cost per ERU
¾	$7.03	$7.15	$8.78	$8.93
1”	$10.42	$7.15	$13.02	$8.93
1.5”	$16.88	$7.15	$21.10	$8.93
2”	$29.80	$7.15	$37.25	$8.93
3”	$74.34	$7.15	$92.92	$8.93
4”	$114.79	$7.15	$143.48	$8.93
6”	$245.50	$7.15	$306.87	$8.93
8”	$354.65	$7.15	$443.31	$8.93

Costs per thousand gallons

Gallons Range/Level	Inside	Outside
1,000-10,000	$3.30	$4.12
11,000-20,000	$3.80	$4.75
21,000-40,000	$4.28	$5.35
41,000-80,000	$4.77	$5.96
Over 80,000	$5.28	$6.60

City of Punta Gorda Historical Monthly Usage Per Class in Gallons

	3 year average/month 2010-2012
Single Family Inside	8,315
Single Family Outside	3,327
Multi Family Inside	2,825
Multi Family Outside	2056
Commercial Inside	7,843
Commercial Outside	5,390
Irrigation Inside	8,215
Irrigation Outside	4,199

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Punta Gorda Utilities
326 W. Marion Ave.
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Phone: 941-575-3339
Fax: 941-575-5006
Website: www.cipunta-gorda.fl.us
Office hours: Monday – Friday 8:00A.M. – 4:30P.M.
Closed on Holidays

Water Treatment Plant
Phone: 941-639-2057
Fax: 941-639-9491

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Phone: 941-639-1883
Fax: 941-639-9416

Billing/Collection
Phone: 941-639-2528
Fax: 941-575-5042

AFTER HOURS WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES
941-639-2057

** If your call goes to the voicemail please leave a message and the licensed water plant employee will call back as soon as their duties allow. **