



**BAY COUNTY UTILITY SERVICES**  
 3400 Transmitter Road  
 Panama City, FL 32404

# 2018 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT BAY COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT



## YOUR AWARD WINNING UTILITY!



2011- 2018  
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Plant  
 Operations Excellence Award for Large Community  
 Systems

2011-2014 and 2017, 2018  
 Florida Section of American Water Works  
 Association Outstanding Distribution System

2016 & 2018 Best Tasting Water  
 Region XII  
 Florida Section of American Water Works Association

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. 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 surface water drawn from Deer Point Reservoir.

In 2018, 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](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp) or they can be obtained from Bay County Utility Services by calling (850) 248-5010.

The Bay County Water Treatment Plant uses a conventional treatment process consisting of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, pH adjustment, disinfection, fluoridation, and corrosion control. The treatment process includes adding lime occasionally to provide additional alkalinity to the raw water so that it can react with the primary coagulating chemical, ferric sulfate, which is added to remove particles and organics. Polymer is also added to assist in the coagulation process. Sodium Hypochlorite is added to maintain disinfection in the distribution system. The addition of zinc orthophosphate reduces the corrosiveness of the water. Fluoride, in the form of Hydrofluorosilicic acid, is added as a supplement to prevent tooth decay. Lime is also added at the end of the process to increase the pH. These processes are needed to meet the drinking water standards as set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Bobby Gibbs Water Division Superintendent at (850) 248-5010. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly schedule Bay County Commission meetings. The meetings are scheduled the first and third Tuesday of each month. Public notices of the meetings are announced regularly publicizing the date, time, and location.

The Bay County Water Treatment Plant 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, 2018. Data obtained before January 1, 2018, and presented in this report, are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.



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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 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, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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 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. Immunocompromised 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).**

We, at the Bay County Water Treatment Plant, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

In the table below, 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.

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

"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.

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

## 2018 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

### Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL /TT Violation Y/N	The Highest Single Measurement	The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity (NTU)	Jan 18- Dec 18	Y	1.86	81.6	N/A	TT	Soil runoff

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. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. The Treatment Technique standard requires that 95% of the turbidity readings be at 0.3 NTU or less.

**NOTE:** In an effort to protect our customers, Bay County issued a Mandatory Boil Water Notice on Oct 10, 2018 due to the potential damage expected by Hurricane Michael. Due to the severity of Hurricane Michael, the treatment facility suffered extensive damage. As the staff worked to reestablishing water service, the turbidity on Oct 15, 2018 did not meet the NTU requirements, resulting in a treatment technique standard violation for October. The issue was resolved by the next day and all turbidity samples since October 15<sup>th</sup> have met the required treatment technique standards.

### Radioactive Contaminants

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
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Apr-17	N	1.5	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

### Inorganic Contaminants

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)	April –18	N	0.0065	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	April –18	N	0.73	N/A	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 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (ppm)	April –18	N	0.068	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	April –18	N	4.3	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan 18 - Dec 18	N	0.875	0.6 - 1.1	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	TT Violation Y/N	Lowest Running Annual Average, Computed Quarterly, of Monthly Removal Ratios	Range of Monthly Removal Ratios	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	Jan 18- Dec 18	N	1.54	1.0 – 2.3	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

### Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

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
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Jan 18 - Dec 18	N	33.1	3.2– 49.3	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Jan 18 - Dec 18	N	39.9	4.6– 68.4	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Aug 17	N	0.37	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Aug 17	N	0.7	0 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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. Bay County Utility Services 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>.

### Unregulated Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo/yr.)	Level Detected (Average)	Range	Likely Source of Contamination
Manganese (ppm)	June 18- Dec 18	0.345	0.003 -1.02	Unavailable
Bromide (ppm)	June 18- Dec 18	0.0169	0.012 - 0.023	Unavailable
TOC (ppm)	June 18- Dec 18	8.82	6.58 - 11.30	Unavailable
HAA5 (ppb)	June 18- Dec 18	30.69	12.13 - 56.61	Unavailable
HAA6 Br (ppb)	June 18- Dec 18	6.24	3.80 - 8.61	Unavailable
HAA9 (ppb)	June 18- Dec 18	36.87	18.11- 65.91	Unavailable

We monitored for unregulated contaminants (UCs) in 2018 as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) or likely sources have been established for UCs. However, we are required to publish the analytical results of our UC monitoring in our annual water quality report. All detections are shown on the table, but if you would like a copy of all our 2018 UC data, contact this water system at the number provided in this report. We will also be monitoring the first 6-month period of 2019 for UCs. They will be published as required in our 2019 Water Quality Report. However, if you would like a copy of the results sooner, please contact Bobby Gibbs at 850-248-5010 to get a copy as soon as they are received by us. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.