



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

# Seacoast Utility Authority

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June 30, 2008

## SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY Annual Water Quality Report Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

In October of 1999, the Federal Government required all public water utility companies to provide an "Annual Water Quality Report" to their customers. To comply with this requirement, Seacoast has again published an Annual Water Quality Report; Volume 10, Issue 1, to all of its customers.

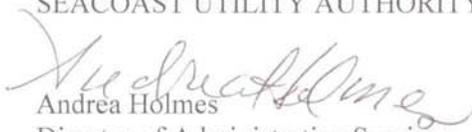
The CCR's were mailed, "carrier route saturation", to each residential dwelling in our service area (49,403 count), and distributed to 68 local public places and community organizations, (i.e., libraries, schools and municipalities). In addition, a letter to the Palm Beach County Health Department was mailed June 25, 2008 along with a CD with a PDF for the Health Department website. We have also made the CCR available on our website at [www.sua.com](http://www.sua.com).

The total cost to produce and mail this year's report was \$12,223.08 (.27 cents per report).

Seacoast appreciates this opportunity to share important drinking water quality information with the public through its CCR. We hope this report will serve as a resource for public schools, city halls, and libraries throughout Seacoast's service area.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain additional copies of the report, please do not hesitate to call Seacoast at (561) 627-2900, extension 332 or visit us on the web at [www.sua.com](http://www.sua.com). We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,  
SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY

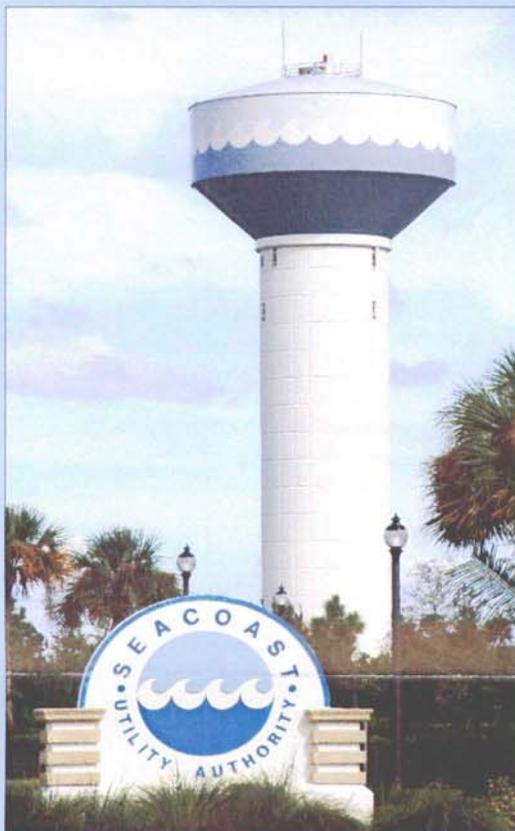
  
Andrea Holmes  
Director of Administrative Services

Enclosure

c: Rim Bishop, Executive Director



# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2007 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



SUA Board Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 3:00 p.m. in the SUA Board Room, which is located in the Operations Building at 4200 Hood Rd, Palm Beach Gardens.

Seacoast Utility Authority is a publicly owned water and sewer utility serving approximately 49,403 homes and businesses with an approximate population of 103,517 residents in northern Palm Beach County, Florida. The August 1988 Interlocal Agreement, establishing Seacoast, vests governing authority in its five member Board. Board Members are appointed by the respective political jurisdictions within which Seacoast provides service.

Each member's voting share is as follows: Palm Beach Gardens 57%, Palm Beach County 22%, North Palm Beach 13%, Lake Park 6%, and Juno Beach 2%.

Seacoast currently distributes approximately 19 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water to its customers.

## Seacoast Board Members

**Donald G. Noel**—Chair: North Palm Beach

**Maria Davis**—Vice Chair: Lake Park

**Robert Weisman**—President Pro-Tem:  
Palm Beach County

**Ron Ferris**—Member: Palm Beach Gardens

**Gail F. Nelson**—Member: Juno Beach

## Misinformation Leads to Confusion, Fear and Skepticism

Seacoast has received reports that firms marketing home water treatment devices have unscrupulously misrepresented Seacoast's water quality to our customers. If a marketing representative states or implies that there are problems with the drinking water supplied by Seacoast, ask them:

**1.** May I have a copy of the analysis made by a certified lab that shows where Seacoast's water quality fails to meet drinking water standards? Ask the vendor/caller for information about the laboratory used, Florida lab certification number, and a phone number where the lab can be reached.

**2.** Ask if the vendor has reported these alleged violations to Seacoast or the Palm Beach County Health Department. If so, what are the names of the individuals to whom the vendor reported these alleged violations and what was their response?

It is suggested that you refuse to interact further with the vendor/caller until all of this information is provided. Then if you decide you want to allow the individual into your home, we will be pleased to meet with you either in your home or at Seacoast for a more in-depth review of the allegations.

Home water treatment devices can be very useful in "polishing" water to suit personal preferences (taste, hardness, etc.). However, the water that Seacoast delivers to your home requires no further treatment to make it safe. Reputable dealers do not need to create a false sense of panic to sell their products.



## Seacoast Utility Authority

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561-624-2839

Customer Service:  
561-627-2920

Visit us on the web at:  
www.sua.com

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by Seacoast Utility Authority. It meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)" and contains information on the source and quality of our water.

If you have any questions, please contact Mac Powell at Laboratory Supervisor at 561-627-2900 Ext. 382 or email: mpowell@sua.com. or Vince Mollo Water Department Manager Ext. 308

## Water conservation tip from the American Water Works Association:

Think about water. It is yours for the asking, 24 hours a day. All you have to do is turn a faucet. But now think again. The water you use does not come magically through your faucet. It is a carefully manufactured product - clean, safe and piped directly into your home - a valuable resource that should not be wasted. Water conservation is a good way of life. Let us practice it together.

Please contact Seacoast Utility Authority Customer Service at (561) 627-2920 for water conservation information and materials.



### Where Does Our Water Come From?

Seacoast obtains its water from the surficial aquifer via thirty-five wells. These wells are located in four separate wellfields. In 2004 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 wells. There are eleven potential sources of contamination identified for this system with a moderate to high susceptibility level. 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).

### How is the Water Treated?

Water from these wells is treated in two lime softening water treatment plants. Both plants produce water of excellent quality, meeting all Federal, State, and local drinking water standards. Treatment includes hardness and color reduction, clarification, filtration, and disinfection using chloramines (a chlorine/ammonia compound).

### Sources of Drinking Water.

The sources of drinking water, (both tap water and bottled), 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:

*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 a variety of 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.

### Lead in Public Drinking Water.

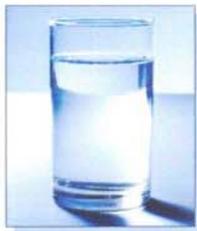
Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water. It is possible that lead in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home, you may wish to have your water tested and/or flush your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using tap waters. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. Seacoast passed the 2006 and 2007 lead and copper survey at customer taps.

### Vulnerability To Contaminants.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as a person 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 at 800-426-4791.



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.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminant's less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminant's do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

### Microbiological contaminant's

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Monthly Percentage/Number	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Jan-Dec 2007	N	2.75% 3 samples in 109 October 2007	0	Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% of monthly samples.	Naturally present in the environment. SUA examines over 1000 drinking water samples annually from the distribution system.

### Radiological contaminant's

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)	March & June 2005	N	6	3 - 6	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	March & June 2005	N	0.9	0.2 - 0.9	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

### Inorganic contaminant's

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
Fluoride (ppm)	March 2005	N	0.23	0.20-0.23	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	April 2007	N	0.121	0.0392-0.121	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	April 2007	N	1.05	0.901-1.05	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	March 2007	N	30	25-30	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

For bromate, chloramines, or chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or THM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations, including Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) results as well as Stage 1 compliance results.

### Stage 1 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 or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	Jan-Dec 2007	N	3.8	0.0 - 4.8	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Jan-Dec 2007	N	34.2	14.8 - 54.4	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
THM (Total trihalomethanes) (ppb)	Jan-Dec 2007	N	32.4	9.4 - 65.5	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)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	# of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (action level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	September 2007	N	0.136	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	September 2007	N	5.6	7 of 148 sites	0	1.5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

DBP - Disinfection by Product. MDL - Minimum Detection Limit. NGE - No Goal Established. THM - Trihalomethane

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

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level-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 contaminant's.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal-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 contaminant's.

ND - Not Detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

pCi/L - Picocurie per liter-a measure of radioactivity in water.

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)-One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)-One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

MCLG - 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.

MCL - 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.

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

# THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

## Jump Start Your Body

While your brain may respond to caffeine in the morning, water helps the rest of your body get moving. It starts by helping to relieve dry mouth and continues to work the magic of motion throughout your system.

## Help Nutrient Absorption

Water is the carrier that helps the body transport and absorb the nutrients in the food we eat. Water moves these nutrients through our cells and ensures that the nutrients are available when and where we need them.

## Make the Medicine Go Down

Instructions for nearly all medications are to take with water. Pharmaceutical companies want their medicines to function in the most effective way possible. Water helps to hurry the medication along in your system and to get it everywhere it needs to go.



## Flush Your System

Our kidney system is unique in its filtering capabilities and totally dependent upon water in order for it to work. Daily fluid intake is essential to its efficient operation, particularly because there is some decrease in function with age.

## Avoid Constipation

Something as simple as fluid plays a major role in preventing constipation. Not only does the liquid encourage bowel movement, but it also softens the stool.

## Avoid Muscle Cramps

Although not the only element associated with muscle cramps, athletes have long recognized that even mild dehydration can produce cramps.

## Prevent Kidney Stones

Stone prevalence is documented as being higher in those persons with low urinary volume. "More fluids" is the first and foremost treatment when kidney stones occur.

## Avoid Dehydration

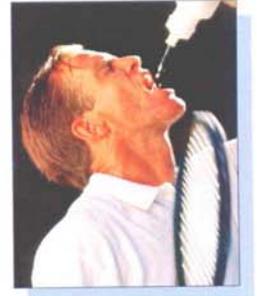
An alarming number of hospitalization of older persons include dehydration as part of the diagnosis. This can be avoided by monitoring your fluid intake. Both mental and physiological performance may be impaired with even mild dehydration.

## Feel Well

In addition to being critical to digestion, nutrient absorption, and waste removal, water is a major player in regulating body temperature and in maintaining electrolyte balance. New studies have also shown a possible correlation between low fluid intake and bladder, colon, breast, prostate, kidney and testicle cancer.

## Be Sure to Drink

It is important to drink fluids whenever you increase your physical activity, when eating a high fiber diet, during hot weather, at high altitudes, in low humidity locations, and when you're sick, especially if you have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Check your urine color. It should be pale, almost clear. A dark yellow means you need more fluids.



Information Can Be Found At: [http://www.eat-online.net/english/education/water\\_ten%20reasons.htm](http://www.eat-online.net/english/education/water_ten%20reasons.htm)

El informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad del agua en su comunidad. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about drinking water or more information regarding this report call Seacoast at 561-627-2900. You may also view the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) water information website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

[www.sua.com](http://www.sua.com)

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