

# 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Inlet Beach Water System, Inc.

We're 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. This year, to decrease the amount of water drawn from our own wells, we supplemented our primary water supply with water from Regional Utilities. **In 2019, about 1.8% of our water came from Inlet Beach's Well #2; 44.8% from Well #3; 48.9% from Well #4 and 4.5% from Regional.**

All of the water distributed in our system is groundwater drawn through deep wells from the pristine Floridan Aquifer. The Floridan Aquifer is the primary source for drinking water in Florida. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatments required are chlorine for disinfection purposes and hydrogen peroxide for oxidation of sulfur.

This report combines test data from our primary source, (Inlet Beach Wells #2, #3, and #4), and our supplemental source (Regional Utilities). Regional Utilities' water source is ground water from nine wells.

In 2019 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on the Inlet Beach Water System, and Regional Utilities' systems. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the drinking water wells. There are two potential sources of contamination identified for the Inlet Beach Water system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. No potential sources of contamination were identified near Regional Utilities' wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robin Haynes or Carol Anderson at (850) 231-4498. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend our annual meeting in Inlet Beach which will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2020 (unless otherwise notified). The date and location will be announced again by mail at a later date.

Inlet Beach Water System 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, 2019. Data obtained before January 1, 2019, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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.

"ND" means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ )** – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg}/\text{l}$ )** – 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.

## 2019 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

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
<b>Radioactive Contaminants *</b>							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Oct 2016 – Jul 2018	N	4.28 (avg)	ND – 5.7	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Oct 2016 – Jul 2018	N	2.13 (avg)	0.3 – 2.7	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants *</b>							
Barium (ppm)	Mar 2017 – Aug 2018	N	0.014	0.0094 – 0.014	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Mar 2017- Aug 2018	N	0.45	ND – 0.45	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
Sodium (ppm)	Mar 2017–Aug 2018	N	38	1.9 – 38	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Cyanide (ppb)	Mar 2017- Aug 2018	N	5	ND – 5	200	200	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	Mar 2017 - Oct 2019	Y	7.25 (avg)	ND – ND	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Lead and Copper (Tap Water)</b> Inlet Beach Water System data only.							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun–Sept 2017	N	0.43	0 of 10	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun–Sept 2017	N	4.6	0 of 10	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

### Secondary Contaminants \*

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Iron (ppm)	Mar 2017- Oct 2019	Y	0.93	ND– 0.93	N/A	0.3	Natural occurrence from soil leaching

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
<b>Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>					Inlet Beach Water System data only.		
Chlorine (ppm) (Stage 1)	Jan –Dec 2019	N	1.67	0.43 – 2.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Aug - Nov 2019	N	26.75	4.4 – 35.7	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Aug - Nov 2019	N	110	20.3 – 110	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

\* Compilation of two systems unless otherwise indicated: Inlet Beach, and Regional Utilities,

\*\* Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**We monitored for unregulated contaminants (UCs) in 2019 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. We are pleased to report that we had no detections of any of the contaminants tested. If you would like a copy of our 2019 UC data, contact this water system at the number provided in this report. 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.**

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.

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standard for secondary contaminants and has determined that Iron is an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. Inlet Beach Water System sampled Well #2 in February and October 2019 and Iron was found in higher levels than are allowed by the State (an MCL violation). Less than 1.8% of our water came from Well #2 in 2019. Iron, as a secondary drinking water contaminant, does not pose a health risk and in small amounts is essential to human health. We will continue to sample as required by rule and work with the Department as needed.

In August 2018 Inlet Beach Water System collected a sample from Well #4 with a Mercury level of 29 parts per billion (ppb). Seven samples have been collected since August 23, 2018, all with a Non Detectable (ND) level of Mercury. The beginning 2019 average was 7.25 ppb which was above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) causing us to continue quarterly sampling for Mercury (inorganic). Inlet Beach Water System received a letter from Florida Department of Environmental Protection dated September 2018 stating that “When results from four consecutive quarters are below the MCL (2 ppb), sampling may be reduced to every three years”. Inlet Beach Water System met that requirement in the third quarter 2019. Some people who drink water containing inorganic mercury well in excess of the MCL over many years could experience kidney damage

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. Inlet Beach Water System 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 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. 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/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).**

**Inlet Beach Water System** would like for you to know that we work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. Conservation of our quality drinking water is of utmost importance at Inlet Beach. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, by limiting unnecessary water use, keeping plumbing repairs up to date and by using shallow wells for all outside and agriculture water needs. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about our drinking water or the information provided, please feel free to contact the water company office at (850) 231-4498

