2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

St. Johns County Utility CR 214 Mainland Water System

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. Our water is treated at two separate plants: the CR 214 Mainland Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Northwest Utilities WTP. The source for the CR 214 Mainland plant is ground water from eight wells ranging from 400 to 450 feet in depth that draw from the Floridan Aquifer. The source for the Northwest Utilities plant is also ground water, and it comes from six wells ranging from 300 to 450 feet in depth that also draw from the Floridan Aquifer. For treatment, the CR 214 Mainland WTP uses Reverse Osmosis. The water is also aerated for odor control and chloraminated to ensure disinfection. The Northwest Utilities WTP uses aeration, chlorination and pH adjustment.

In 2025, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system, and a search of the data sources indicated two potential sources of contamination near our CR214 Mainland wells and three potential sources near our Northwest Utilities wells, all of which have low susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/.

If you have any questions about this report concerning your water utility, please contact Dan Nowaczyk at (904) 209-2787. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more or attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, please contact us for dates and times.

St. Johns County Utility CR214 Mainland 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, 2025. Data obtained before January 1, 2025, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead levels. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled are available for review by contacting Daniel Nowaczyk at (904)209-2787.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. St. Johns County Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Daniel Nowaczyk at (904)209-2787. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. Ours is available for review online at https://lead-service-line-inventory-sjcutilities.hub.arcgis.com/

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 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 or MCLG: The level of 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 (ug/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 contaminants in drinking water.

Level 1 Assessment: A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

TEST RESULTS TABLES

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation	Results	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria*	2,3,4,5,8,9, &11. 2025	Y	Positive	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs,

we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

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
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	2,4,7&10 2024	N	3.3	ND -3.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 (pCi/L)	2,4,7&10 2024	N	1.7	ND – 1.7	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)	2,4,7, & 10 2024	N	0.013	0.012-0.013	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2,4,7&10 2024	N	1.0	0.40- 1.0	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum levels between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm
Nickel (ppb)	2,4,7&10 2024	N	1.8	ND-1.8	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	1/2025	N	0.15	0.15 – 0.15	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (inorganic) (ppb)	2, 4, 7 &10 2024	N	0.1	ND - 0.1	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Sodium (ppm)*	2,4,7&10 2024	N	110	85-110	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

Stage 2 Disinfectant & Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

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)	1-12 /2025	N	3.4	0.8- 3.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	5 & 8/2025	N	7.57	3.08 – 7.57	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	5 & 8/2025	N	25.07	22.79-25.07	N/A	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	Range of Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	6-2024	N	.0510	0 of 36	ND – 0.14	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	6-2024	N	0.62	0 of 36	ND – 0.96	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	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Sulfate	2,4,7, &10 2024	N	230*	210-230	N/A	250	Natural occurrence from soil leaching.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2,4,7, &10 2024	Y	740*	640 - 740	N/A	500	Natural occurrence from soil leaching.

* While the MCL level was exceeded for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), it is a secondary contaminant, which relates to the aesthetic quality of the water, and is not health-related at the levels recorded.

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. St. Johns County Utility 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.

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 number 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 some small amounts of 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.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected in rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

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).

We at St. Johns County Utility's CR 214 Mainland 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.