



Water Utilities Administration

301 College Street · Lake Worth, Florida 33461 · Phone: 561-586-1675

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Bornstein

FROM: Larry Johnson, Water Utilities Director

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Lake Worth Water Quality Report

The City of Lake Worth has over 100 years of experience providing drinking water to its residents and customers. The City produces excellent quality drinking water from its water treatment plant and pumps that water to homes and businesses throughout the water service area. The City takes the following steps to assure that the water delivered through the water meters to our customers meets or exceeds state and federal water quality requirements.

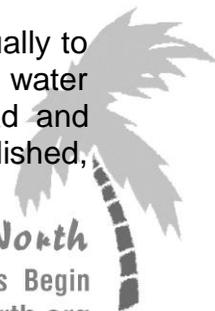
- All water is produced from wells instead of surface waters
- The Water Treatment Plant was upgraded in 2011 with construction of the reverse osmosis treatment process, and again in 2015 to improve water treatment methods for disinfection of the water.
- The City uses lime to treat about half of the water produced at the plant. This water is then blended with water from the new reverse osmosis treatment process to produce an excellent quality water. The small amount of lime left after filtration of the water helps to coat the piping in the water distribution system.
- The City uses a corrosion inhibiting chemical in the water to reduce corrosion that may occur inside the water distribution pipes.
- The City approved a six year capital project to replace corroded 2 inch steel pipe that is beyond its useful life. The first phase of this project is now out to bid, and the second phase in the northeast part of the City is in design.
- The City takes water samples in the distribution system monthly to assure that water quality parameters are met. The City has a certified laboratory to perform water testing, and also uses an outside certified laboratory for more specialized testing.
- The City reports the results of water quality testing every year to its customers. This "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" shows the results of testing over the last year compared to state and federal requirements. The 2014 reports are also available on the City website.
- The City conducts sampling and water testing at sample house sites annually to test lead and copper levels in the tap water inside the homes. The water treatment and the corrosion inhibitors help to reduce the levels of lead and copper found in these tests. Tests from 2014, which are the last tests published, show that lead levels did not exceed action levels.

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What About Tap Water vs. Bottled Water?

In order to assure 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 contacting the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

What About Lead?

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. Lake Worth is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components on private property. When your water has been sitting in the pipes for several hours, you can reduce 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 drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The City of Lake Worth provides high quality drinking water, and we are continuing to improve the water system. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 561-586-1710, or visit the City website, <http://www.lakeworth.org>.

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