

2002 WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City of Florence is pleased to report that the drinking water supplied to its citizens and customers throughout the 2002 calendar year was of the highest quality and exceeded all state and federal health and safety standards.

"Our customers consistently tell us that drinking water quality is a high priority," said Drew Griffin, the City of Florence's Director of Public Works and Utilities. "In that respect, it is gratifying to provide this summary of monitoring and sampling results obtained during 2002 so our customers can be assured that their drinking water continues to meet all standards."

To ensure your drinking water continuously meets or exceeds the standards set forth in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the City of Florence routinely collects sampling data for nearly 100 elements and substances that may be present in public drinking water supplies from both organic and man-made sources. The sampling data collected by City of Florence is scientifically analyzed and confirmed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

The most recent sampling data collected and analyzed for the City of Florence Water System for the period January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 shows that your drinking water contains only a few of the elements and substances covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This sampling data is presented in a table on the inside of this report.

Effective July 1, 2002, the City of Florence purchased Florence County's Effingham (#2120002) and Hoffmeyer (#2120004) water systems. These systems have been fully integrated into the City water system (#2110001) and are covered by this Water Quality Report.

WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

The City of Florence relies on groundwater as its primary supply source. Groundwater is obtained from deep wells drilled into the Middendorf and Black Creek aquifers. The City provides drinking water for approximately 65,000 people including nearly 23,700 residences and more than 3,050 businesses.

In November 2002, the City of Florence started up the Pee Dee River Regional Water System, located in the Pee Dee Regional Commerce Center, just south of I-95. The new water system has the capability of treating and processing approximately 10 million gallons of surface water per day (mgd) from the Pee Dee River, making it an abundant, viable source of high-quality drinking water for the City of Florence and Florence County.

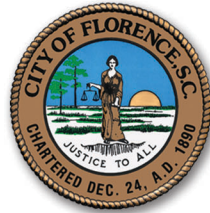


FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL

Florence City Council governs the policies, funding and management of the City Utility Department. City Council meets the second Monday of every month at 1 p.m. in Room 604 of the City-County Complex. The complex is located at 180 North Irby Street in Florence, S.C. Customers and the public are welcome to attend.

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Some people may be more vulnerable to substances in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons 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 substances are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The technical language, terms, descriptions, definitions, precautionary statements and scientific data contained and displayed in this report were strictly prescribed and mandated by federal authorities and federal law. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) validated the sampling results listed.

For more information about lead, other substances, and potential health effects, you may call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

For more information about this report or the City of Florence water quality, please contact Mack Maloch at (843) 665-3271 or Forrest Whittington at (843) 665-3236.



WHAT'S IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may 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 lead and other contaminants as well as their potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In future years, SCDHEC and the City of Florence will prepare a source water assessment report. This report will address the quality, reliability, and security of the City's water sources. When the report is complete, customers will be advised of how to obtain a copy.

In 2002, the City of Florence detected only a very small number of the nearly 100 substances and elements regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act in its drinking water supplies.

FLUORIDE

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element produced by geologic deposits in groundwater supplies that helps prevent tooth decay. Because naturally occurring levels of fluoride are low in the City's source waters, a small amount is added during the treatment process as recommended by the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association.



YOUR DRINKING WATER

Providing high-quality drinking water is a priority for the City of Florence. With this dedication to superior drinking water service, City of Florence customers can have confidence that their drinking water is safe, healthy and of the highest quality.

This report is designed not only to inform customers about water quality and the City of Florence's commitment, but also to increase customer understanding of drinking water and how it is treated.



2002 WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS

The following table shows actual sampling results for substances detected in the City of Florence's groundwater systems for the period January 1 to December 31, 2002, compared with state and federal health and safety standards for those substances.

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASUREMENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
FLUORIDE	No	ND-0.92	PPM	4	2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
COPPER	No	90th Percentile 0.1580	PPM	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
BARIUM	No	ND-0.083	PPM	2	2	Discharge from drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
CHROMIUM	No	ND-18	PPB	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
TOTAL COLIFORM	Yes*	-	-	-	-	Naturally present in the environment.

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE

The following definitions are designed to help you understand the data and information presented in the accompanying table.

MCLG:	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs provide a margin of safety.	PPM:	Parts Per Million. The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.
MCL:	Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.	PPB:	Parts Per Billion. The equivalent of one penny in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.
ND:	Non-Detected. No measurable level of a substance or contaminant detected.	90th Percentile:	Of all samples analyzed, 90 percent were at or below the detection level.
		AL:	Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

* Total Coliform - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. For the December 2002 sampling period, coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. For this reason, the City of Florence was issued a violation by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for the month of December in 2002. Upon investigation it was determined that inaccurate sampling techniques used by City personnel were the cause of the coliform detections. City and SCDHEC personnel immediately began resampling the sites. All of the resampling by the SCDHEC and the City tested negative for coliform bacteria. This repeat sampling established that there was no contamination of the water system and that there was no risk to public health. To prevent inaccurate sampling techniques in the future, the City has standardized its sample acquisition protocol and provided detailed instructions to all personnel involved in obtaining bacteriological samples.