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**Whats in the Pipe?** Spring turns to summer as it has for millenniums past. Something seemingly so routine continues as an on-going miracle of our lives. Cosmic forces conspire; the great earth tilts on its axis towards the greater sun, the air we breathe warms in turn with the rotation of heavenly orbits while we humbly go about our lives. Finishing up are the azaleas who, like the purple wisteria vines, have had their all too brief moments of perfumed glory, replaced now by a time of picnics, beaches, boats and the buzz of bottles. There is nothing else to do but wonder in it all yet again while you draw a tall, cool glass of pure water from your tap, settle on your favorite porch rocker and then read on. Here's what's in *The Pipe*:

**Our Annual Water Quality Testing...**is just completed, bringing results that once again show your water remains among the purest in the country. By now all readers of *Pipelines* know that the Environmental Protection Agency requires all public water utilities to inform their customers about water quality. Your utility is certainly no exception, so please do read on.

**The Source of our Water...**is groundwater drawn from the Floridan and Cretaceous Aquifers. Your utility's Source Water Assessment Plan is available at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/docs/beaufortswp/0720001r.pdf). If you do not have Internet access please contact SPSD at 843-785-6224 to make arrangements to review this document.

**The Sources of Drinking Water (Both Tap Water and Bottled Water)...**includes 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:

- 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 various 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.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 1-800-426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Looking at the Numbers...**the report on the next side was generated via a variety of highly sophisticated lab tests for the monitoring period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. These tests were done to detect a variety of water constituents and then compared against federally mandated maximum levels. The regulatory agencies allow some contaminants to be monitored less frequently than once a year. The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing. Data from previous monitoring periods are noted.

**What Does It All Mean?** As indicated by the data, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. Note that we have learned through our monitoring and testing that while some constituents have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water is perfectly safe at these levels.

**Health and Water...**You should also know that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as people with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have had organ transplants, those 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 microbial contaminants, as well as more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility in general, please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866.

**Important...**Este informe contiene información sobre su agua beber. Traduzcálo o háble con alguien que lo entienda bien.

**Your Commissioners Meet...**8 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the SPSD offices, 2 Genesta Street. The public is cordially invited and most welcome to attend.

**See You Next Time...**Water is so precious to our lives it needs to be jealously protected. Limit your irrigation systems—your plants need far less water than you think. Fix that annoying faucet leak. Save water whenever you can. We're always interested in your comments, so please write: *Pipelines*, c/o South Island Public Service District, Post Office Box 5148, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938.

Call us first...if you have a plumbing or sewer issue, we may help diagnose the problem. Call our maintenance department @ 843-671-2907.



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 Post Office Box 5148  
 Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

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If you would like to receive the complete list of contaminants that were monitored, please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866.

Unregulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Results	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Strontium	5/19/2014	592	32-860	—	—	ppb	N	Naturally-occurring element; historically, commercial use of strontium has been in the faceplate glass of cathode-ray tube televisions to block x-ray emissions.
Molybdenum	5/19/2014	1.44	1.1-1.8	—	—	ppb	N	Naturally-occurring element found in ores and present in plants, animals and bacteria; commonly used form molybdenum trioxide used as chemical reagent.

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. South Island PSD 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring for Unregulated Contaminants (Round 3) was conducted in May, 2014. The following contaminants were detected:

**Definitions:** The above tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant in drinking water 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.

**Avg:** Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**ppm:** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**ppb:** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

NA: Not applicable.

\*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Regulated and Unregulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	2015	1	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine	2015	1	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Halocetic Acids (HAA5)*	2015	12	0 - 36.84	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)*	2015	44	18.3 - 118.25	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2014	0.8	0.48-0.8	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2014	0.052	0 - 0.052	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	7/26/2011	6.4	0 - 6.4	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/20/2013	1.3	1.3	0.13	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.