TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS

IMMOKALEE

Prepared by: **Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department**
(954) 894-1060
PublicWorks@semtribe.com
www.semtribe.com

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA • TRIBAL COUNCIL • IN GOD WE TRUST •

Immokalee Operators, from left to right:
Eddie Warren, Jose Remirez, Denis Ortega

We are pleased to present you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our continuing goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the effort 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 source is ground water from wells, which draw from the Lower Tamiami Aquifer. The water is pumped to the plant, where it is filtered and processed through low pressure reverse osmosis units. The water is then aerated to remove any dissolved gases. Next, it is disinfected with chlorine to protect against pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water service. If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please contact Rudy Garcia, Public Works Department, at (863) 634-1705 or Bryan Fogle, at (954) 937-8219.

The Seminole Tribe Public Works Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal laws and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained prior to January 1, 2023 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with Federal laws and regulations.

As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The source of drinking water (both tap 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 materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

Microbial contaminants which include viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation, and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants including salt and metals that can be naturally occurring or resulting from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources including agriculture, urban storm water run-off, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants that include synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, as well as gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants may be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.
All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least a small amount 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you may not be familiar. To better help you understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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
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
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Variances and Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	1.8	.6	1.8	2023	No	**Water additive used to control microbes**
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	9.3	8.1	9.3	2023	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	27	21	27	2023	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.0015	NA	NA	2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.72	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	160	23.9	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (RTCR)	NA	TT	NA	NA	NA	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1	NA	NA	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Sample Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.012	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.00045	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violations and Exceedances

Level 1 Assessment and Sanitary Defects

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

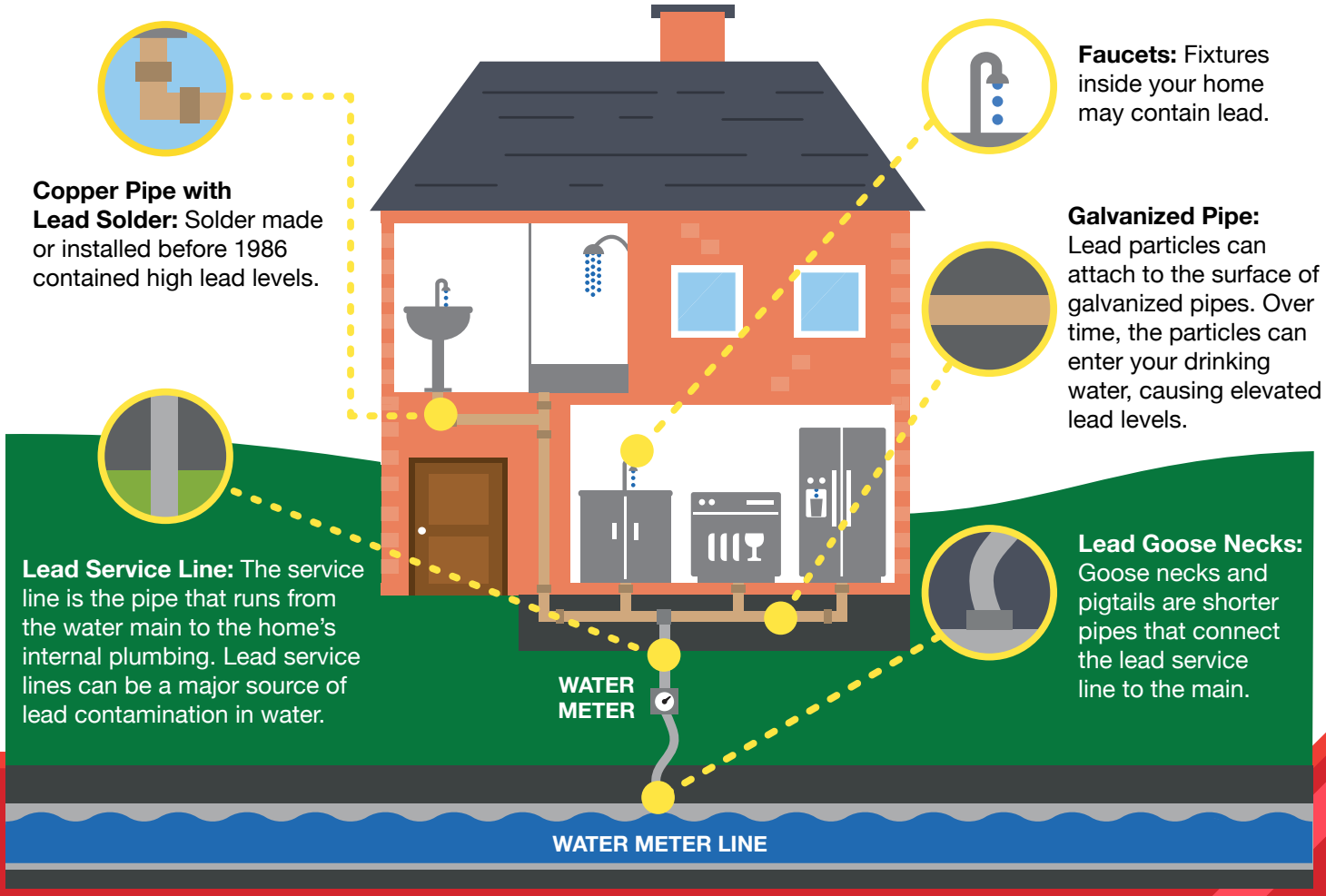
During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment(s). One Level 1 Assessment(s) was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action(s) and we completed one assessment(s).

Unit Descriptions

Term	Definition
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppt	Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
% positive samples/month	Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
NA	Not applicable
ND	Not detected
NR	Monitoring not required, but recommended

SOURCES OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



REPLACE YOUR LEAD SERVICE LINE

Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.

Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.

Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR 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. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department 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 several 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead .

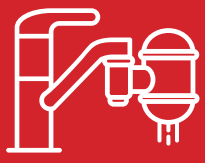
A common material used in plumbing until the 1980s, lead is also a powerful toxin that is harmful to human health. Pregnant women, infants and young children are particularly vulnerable. At the Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department, we take our responsibility to protect your health very seriously and want you to make informed decisions about your drinking water. Lead can be present in old service lines connecting homes to the water system or in-home plumbing. We take steps at the treatment plant to reduce the potential of lead dissolving into the water and ending up at the tap, including corrosion control methods such as adding a corrosion inhibitor to the water before distribution, but as long as lead is in contact with water in the service line or home, some risk remains. We encourage Tribal Members with lead in-home plumbing to consider replacing these potential sources of exposure. While the Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department meets all federal regulations for lead, levels can vary among neighborhoods or even from house to house, depending upon the materials used in plumbing system construction.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department is currently in the process of identifying any potential sources of lead in the form of our Lead Service Line Inventory. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Public Works Department at (954) 894-1060.

REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD

Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

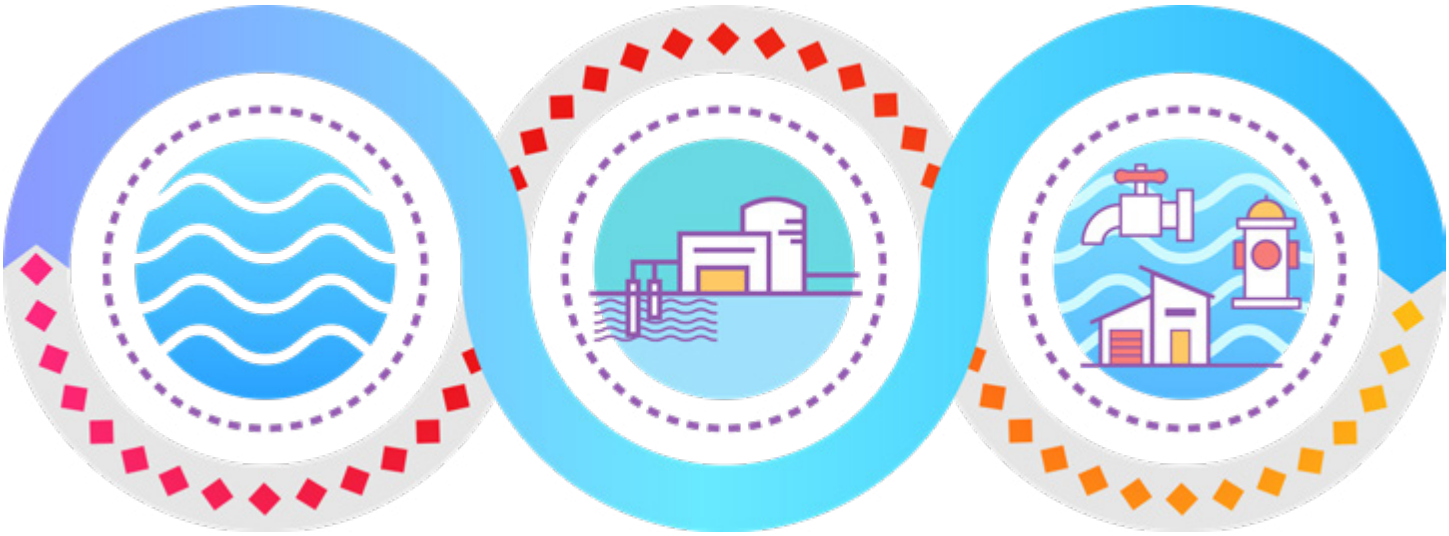
Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.

Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Seminole Tribe of Florida's Immokalee Water Treatment Plant sources ground water from the Lower Tamiami Aquifer. This is a surficial or shallow-depth aquifer that enables water collection approximately 90 - 200 feet underground.

TREATMENT PROCESS

The treatment process features a top-of-the-line reverse osmosis drinking water facility. The reverse osmosis process is a highly effective water treatment that involves using a semi-permeable membrane to remove impurities from the water. These impurities can be extremely small, such as bacteria, viruses, and heavy metals, making reverse osmosis excellent for water treatment. The treated water is then transferred to degasifier towers that remove volatile gases including approximately 95% of the hydrogen sulfide.

DELIVERING THE BEST WATER

Once the water leaves the water treatment plant, it travels through a complex distribution system that includes water mains, valves, hydrants, high service pumps, ground storage tanks, and more.

DID YOU KNOW?

+8,000
Water Quality Samples Collected by certified professionals

+49 Million
Gallons of drinking distributed in 2023

400 Thousand
Gallons of water storage capacity in case of emergency

+9.3 Miles
Drinking water pipelines maintained by Public Works

ZERO WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS IN 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Tribal Community Members,

We are honored to present our annual drinking water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which provides comprehensive insight into the quality and sources of water delivered to our esteemed tribal community by the Public Works Department. As custodians of this invaluable resource, we are steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding our drinking water supplies. Water stands as a vital and precious resource, deeply intertwined with the cultural and environmental fabric of our tribal lands. As stewards of this invaluable asset, we recognize the pressing need to protect it against the ever-mounting threats posed by climate change and the changing natural environment. It is our solemn duty to continue safeguarding this resource for future generations, ensuring its resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

We take great pride in consistently delivering safe drinking water that meets the stringent standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Across all four of our water treatment plants—Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, and Immokalee Reservations —our drinking water professionals have consistently upheld this commitment. As we confront emerging challenges in water safety, we remain vigilant in protecting our water sources, implementing advanced treatment techniques, promoting water conservation practices, and fostering community education.

The unwavering support of our executive leadership and Tribal Council has been instrumental in our journey. Equally critical to our success are the dedicated individuals who form the backbone of our water treatment operations. Their tireless efforts and adherence to best management practices have played a pivotal role in ensuring that our water treatment plants consistently surpass USEPA standards. We owe our success to their expertise, attention to detail, and steadfast dedication.

In our pursuit of excellence, we recognize the importance of implementing sustainable practices and providing ongoing education for our staff. As the demand for clean water rises, we must embrace methods that prioritize quality and environmental responsibility. We have enhanced efficiency, reduced waste, and lowered costs through continuous improvement initiatives. Furthermore, ongoing education initiatives ensure we remain abreast of industry advancements, allowing us to adopt cutting-edge technologies and methods that further our sustainability efforts. It is gratifying to see our endeavors recognized with several prestigious drinking water awards from our water industry peers.

We are grateful that you took the time to review our annual drinking water quality report. Your feedback, thoughts, and concerns are invaluable as we strive to continuously enhance our services. As we embark on another year, we reaffirm our staunch commitment to providing safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water to our tribal community and its visitors.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding the information presented in this report.

Your engagement and partnership are essential as we work together to safeguard our most precious resource—water.

Warm regards,

Emran Rahaman
Director of Public Works
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Phone: (954) 894-1060 | E-mail: publicworks@semtribe.com

AWARD WINNING WATER

COMMITTED TO SERVING THE VERY BEST!

Florida Section American Water Works Association
"Best Tasting Drinking Water"

Best Tasting Drinking Water for Region VI (Hollywood) and Region VIII (Brighton). Both competed in the Best of the Best Competition for the State of Florida for the 2nd time ever! The Seminole Tribe of Florida represented 2 of 12 districts in this competition.

Florida Section American Water Works Association
"Most Improved Drinking Water Plant"

Winner of FSAWWA's Most Improved Plant Award in back-to-back years (2023 and 2024). In 2022, we accepted their award for Most Outstanding Plant.

Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association
"Safety Award"

Winner of FW&PCOA's Safety Award in back-to-back years, demonstrating our commitment to safety.

United South and Eastern Tribes
"Best Tasting Drinking Water"

United South and Eastern Tribe's Best Tasting Drinking Water 2 years in a row!

Southeast Desalting Association Awards

Southeast Desalting Association's Best Tasting Drinking Water in 2019 and Most Outstanding Plant in 2018.

OUR AWARD WINNING FACILITY

TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.