



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
325TH OPERATIONAL MEDICAL READINESS SQUADRON (ACC)
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA**

27 July 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: 325 OMRS/SGXB

SUBJECT: Request Distribution of the 2025 Bay County Water Quality Report.

Reference: DAFI 48-144 *Drinking Water Surveillance Program*, dated 21 June 2023

1. Public Water Systems that are regulated as Community Water Systems are required to issue a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), or Annual Water Quality Report, for distribution in accordance with (IAW) CFR part 141, Subpart 40 O, *Consumer Confidence Reports*, and the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act.
2. Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative (GCEC) currently owns and maintains the water distribution system that supplies Bay County water to Tyndall (main base), Silver Flag, Air Force Research Lab, and Full-Scale Drone. The Bay County 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report fulfills all requirements of the Code of Federal Regulation, Safe Water Drinking Act, and DAFI 48-144 paragraph 5.1.2.
3. When a third party agency, such as Bay County Water or Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, sells the water to an installation, there may be a gap in communicating the contents of the report to all users of the potable water system and thus Bioenvironmental Engineering requires the electronic distribution of the report as wide as possible to ensure all users are informed of the water quality.
4. If you have any questions regarding the CCR or contents of the report please contact BE at 850-283-7139 or by email at usaf.tyndall.325-mdg.list.sgp@health.mil.

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Flight Commander, Bioenvironmental Engineering



BAY COUNTY UTILITY SERVICES
3400 Transmitter Road
Panama City, FL 32404

2025 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT BAY COUNTY



WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

The Environmental Protection Agency requires public water suppliers that serve the same people year-round (community water systems) to provide consumer confidence reports to their customers. These reports are also known as annual water quality reports. This report summarizes information regarding water sources used, any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information. Our water source is surface water drawn from Deer Point Reservoir.



In 2025, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our surface water intakes. The surface water system is considered to be at high risk because of the many potential sources of contamination present in the assessment area. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from Bay County Utility Services by calling (850) 248-5010.

The Bay County Water Treatment Plant uses a conventional treatment process consisting of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, pH adjustment, disinfection, fluoridation, and corrosion control. The treatment process includes adding lime occasionally to provide additional alkalinity to the raw water so that it can react with the primary coagulating chemical, ferric sulfate, which is added to remove particles and organics. Polymer is also added to assist in the coagulation process. Sodium Hypochlorite is added to maintain disinfection in the distribution system. The addition of zinc orthophosphate reduces the corrosiveness of the water. Hydrofluosilic acid (fluoride) was stopped on May 31st, 2025. Lime is also added at the end of the process to increase the pH. These processes are needed to meet the drinking water standards as set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Bay County Water Treatment Plant 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your water utility, please contact Sean Lathrop Water Division Superintendent at (850) 248-5010. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Bay County Commission meetings. The meetings are scheduled the first and third Tuesday of each month. Public notices of the meetings are announced regularly publicizing the date, time, and location of the meeting.

Our staff works 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.

Bay County's Water System was in violation of the Cross Connection Control Requirement as specified in the State CCR Rules, F.A.C. Rule 62-555.360 & 330. The system began implementing a written cross connection control and backflow prevention program as required on 11/17/20.

What are we doing to meet this requirement? We adopted a new Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP) plan on 12/15/2020, which meets the 2014 rule. Since adoption, all new Bay County water customers with dedicated irrigation service connections will need to install the required pressure vacuum breaker (PVB) or reduced pressure (RP) backflow device. Our CCCP took a four zoned approach to tackle all the existing 1069 meters that were out of compliance. The four zoned approach is to allow each homeowner ample time to install the required device. Bay County was in full compliance by 12/31/2025. Please note, all service connections currently have a dual check backflow device that is approved for standard residential connections, however, the device does not meet minimum protection for dedicated irrigation meters as outlined in the 2014 rule. To help customers understand the plan better, Bay County Utilities will have a Q&A sheet available, along with definitions to unfamiliar items and abbreviations found in the new plan. Handouts of the material will also be available at Bay County Utilities Service Office located at 3400 Transmitter Rd.

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 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 calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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).

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 a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: 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.
- 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- “ND” means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/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.

2025 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Microbiological Contaminants								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL /TT Violation Y/N	The Highest Single Measurement	The Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Regulatory Limits	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Turbidity (NTU)	Jan 25 - Dec 25	N	0.26	100%	N/A	TT	Soil runoff	
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL /TT Violation Y/N	Number of positive samples	MCL		MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination	
E. Coli	Jan 25 – Dec 25	N	1	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for <i>E. coli</i>		0	Human and animal fecal waste. Bad sample tap	
Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants. The Treatment Technique standard requires that 95% of the turbidity readings be at 0.3 NTU or less. During routine bacteriological monitoring, Bay County Utility Services detected one sample positive for E. coli; however, all repeat samples collected at the original location and additional upstream and downstream sites were returned as absent for both total coliform bacteria and E. coli, meaning BCUS was not in violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level under the Revised Total Coliform Rule. The isolated detection was not indicative of a systemic issue within the distribution system, and no corrective action beyond the required resampling was necessary. The water continues to meet all state and federal drinking water standards, and no action is required by customers.								
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)	April –25	N	0.0078	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	April –25	N	0.87	N/A	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at 1.5 ppm	
Nitrate (ppm)	April –25	N	0.06	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural Deposits	
Sodium (ppm)	April –25	N	4.2	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil	
Nickel (ppm)	April – 25	N	2.6	N/A	N/A	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations. Natural occurrence in soil	
Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products								
Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan 25 - Dec 25	N	0.83	0.57 – 1.05	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Water additive used to control microbes	
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr.)	TT Violation Y/N	Lowest Running Annual Average, Computed Quarterly, of Monthly Removal Ratios	Range of Monthly Removal Ratios	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Total Organic Carbon	Jan 25 - Dec 25	N	1.7	1.0 – 1.9	N/A	TT	Naturally present in the environment	
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products								
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	
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	Jan 25 - Dec 25	N	21.5	2.1 - 38	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
TTHM [Total trihalome- thanes] (ppb)	Jan 25 - Dec 25	N	41.4	4.4 – 50.7	N/A	MCL = 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 Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Sep 23	N	0.29	0 of 33	0.0013 – 0.84	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Sep 23	N	0.7	0 of 33	ND – 2.5	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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. Bay County Utility Services is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Sean Lathrop @ 850-248-5010. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Bay County Utility Services has completed its Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart I, and corresponding Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulatory requirements. The inventory was conducted through a comprehensive review of historical construction records, as-built drawings, tap cards, and service connection records, supplemented by field verification of service line materials and coordination with BCUS distribution staff. Upon completion of this system-wide inventory, BCUS identified no lead service lines, lead connectors, pigtails, or goosenecks in any portion of its water distribution system. Service lines within the BCUS system are predominantly composed of copper, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, and ductile iron materials, consistent with standard water utility construction practices in the State of Florida. The completed inventory has been submitted to the FDEP as required, is publicly accessible and available for review upon request, and will be maintained and updated as new service connections are installed or existing connections are modified in accordance with ongoing regulatory obligations. The following is a link

to the LSLI [https://depedms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&\[guid=32.1701215.1\]&\[profile=Sampling](https://depedms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&[guid=32.1701215.1]&[profile=Sampling)

Bay County Utility Services (BCUS) is pleased to inform its customers that the complete lead and copper tap sampling data for the BCUS public water system (is now available for public review. In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and corresponding Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requirements, BCUS routinely conducts lead and copper tap water sampling at designated monitoring locations throughout the distribution system to ensure compliance with applicable drinking water standards. The complete sampling results, including individual sample site data, are available for review by contacting Bay County Utility Services at (850) 248-5010 or by visiting the BCUS offices during normal business hours. Customers may also request copies of the sampling data in writing. BCUS remains committed to transparency and to providing safe, high-quality drinking water to all customers served by the system. Please see link for results. : [https://depedms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&\[guid=32.1614010.1\]&\[profile=Sampling](https://depedms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&[guid=32.1614010.1]&[profile=Sampling)