



# PipeLines

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[www.sipsd.com](http://www.sipsd.com)

SCDHEC Water System #0720001

**What's in the Pipe?** They say if we grow old enough we'll have seen everything, although the general consensus is that the COVID-19 pandemic now tormenting us will leave anything that should unhappily follow a distant second. In just the space of a few months our mostly safe, comfortable, pleasant lives have been changed forever. The accent is on health, quite rightly, albeit with an edge: surgical face masks are the dress of the day, people avoid each other like...well...the plague and the news is tragically filled with counts of the sick. Social distancing seems to be working—if followed—and the numbers appear to be flattening. Along the way we're living healthier lives, and that includes drinking more of the pure water that comes to you via your tap. It is life in its most elemental form and it's meant for you to savor in great draughts. Drink deeply. Then have another glass. Roll the last swallow around your tongue. Then have another one on us. 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 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 SIPSD 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, 2019 to December 31, 2019. 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline). If you have any questions concerning this report or your water utility in general, please contact the District Lab at 843-671-3866.

**Importante...**Este informe contiene informacion sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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

**See You Next Time...**No issue of *PipeLines*, especially our summer issue, would be complete without a water conservation tip. This time of year is no different from those past: limit your irrigation system; in fact, keep it off until the really hot weather comes, then use it sparingly. Fix any leaks. 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 sewer issue, we may help diagnose the problem. Call our maintenance department @ 843-785-6224.**