

**Utilities Dept.**

10776 NW South River Dr.  
Medley FL. 33178  
Ph. (305) 889-1915

**Jorge Soto**

Utilities Director  
Ph. (305)-889-1915

## Town of Medley Utilities Department Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2016

**What's the source of your drinking water?**

The Town of Medley Utilities Department drinking water source is groundwater from wells. The wells withdraw solely from the Biscayne Aquifer. Although Medley does not process their own water, it is received directly from Miami-Dade's Hialeah and John E. Preston water treatment plants which serve most Miami-Dade Residents living between the Miami-Dade-Broward County Line and SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street. These treatment plants only draw water from the Biscayne Aquifer.

**Biscayne Aquifer?**

The Biscayne Aquifer is located just below the surface of the land in South Florida. It is made out of porous rock with tiny cracks and holes. Water then seeps in and fills these tiny cracks and holes.

This water is often referred to as groundwater or the water table, and provides virtually all of the water that is used by South Florida residents, visitors and businesses. This water is generally clean due to the effects of natural filtration.

The water is actually flowing like an underground river at a very slow rate. Generally it travels in an east-southeasterly direction at a rate of only about two feet per day. However, where there are very large openings or man-made canals the flow rate can increase substantially.

Because this drinking water supply is so close to the surface (barely a few feet down in most places), it is especially prone to contamination. Typically an underground water system can cleanse itself of low levels of contaminants in at least two ways.

- ❖ First, natural dilution, (the "thinning out" of contaminants caused by dispersal into a large water body) can reduced minor contaminant concentrations to levels that are no longer considered harmful.
- ❖ The second is the ability of a water system to clean itself through the natural filtration described earlier and through the breakdown of trapped contaminants by soil bacteria.

However, the Biscayne Aquifer has unique physical characteristics that make neither of these systems entirely reliable. This, compounded by the fact that millions of gallons of water are pumped out of the ground each day, contributes to the vulnerability of the region's groundwater supply.

This is why efforts are made to protect the groundwater. Miami-Dade County, in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies, works to safeguard the supply source for drinking water. This may result in environmental regulations for businesses in the South Florida area being more stringent than other areas of the country, but it is necessary to protect the health of everyone dependent on clean water. Being proactive can also forestall expensive water treatment processes at our water treatment plants.

**How Our Water Is Treated:*****The Hialeah & John E. Preston Plants:***

In general, the Hialeah and John E. Preston Plants treat water that is supplied to residents who live north of SW 8 Street up to the Miami-Dade/Broward Line which also includes Medley.

Water from the Hialeah plant is treated similarly to that from the Alexander Orr, Jr. plant, plus fluoridation and the addition of air stripping to remove volatile organic compounds.

Because source water supplied to the John E. Preston plant has a higher level of naturally occurring organic materials than the water at the other plants, it goes through a slightly different process called enhanced softening. It is disinfected, fluoridated and filtered, then it goes through air stripping towers that remove volatile organic compounds. This process has the added benefit of reducing the yellow tint once present in water

supplied by the Preston plant. For water quality questions, call 786-552-4738.

#### **Additional Information About Your Water:**

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:

- 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 a variety of 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.

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.

#### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 at 1-800-426-4791.

#### **Questions or Concerns?**

Visit: [www.miamidade.gov/water](http://www.miamidade.gov/water) for more information or Contact the safe drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791