

Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority

Water Quality Report 2020



St. Croix Districts
January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Dear Water Distributors/Water Customers:

We at the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA) are pleased to present to you the 2020 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or Water Quality Report. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), this report is made available to all our consumers and is designed to inform you about the quality of our drinking water we deliver to you every day. The monitoring tables in this report reflect the compliance monitoring results for all regulated and non-regulated contaminants collected in 2020 by our dedicated and certified Microbiology Laboratories' staff. Our constant goal is to meet or exceed both federal and local drinking water standards and to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Following the Water Distribution System Master Plan, VIWAPA is working with our federal and local partners such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obtain grant funding to upgrade and rehabilitate our aging water distribution infrastructure and for expansion projects. Thus far, the Constant Midtown Waterline Rehabilitation and the Annas Retreat Waterline Extension Phase 1 are completed in St. Thomas. On St. Croix, both the Christiansted and Frederiksted Waterline Rehabilitation Phase II have concluded. When this 20-year blueprint of system upgrades and expansions are finalized, these capital projects will improve water quality as well as reliability and system efficiency. Despite facing challenges induced by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, VIWAPA implemented several protocols and continued its safe operations to distribute quality potable water to our almost 13,000 customers in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In closing, I invite you to carefully read the next few pages to learn more about the quality of our drinking water. We take great pride in the job we do and recognize that we play a vital role in maintaining the health and well-being of our customers. We remain steadfast in our commitment to do our best to provide the highest quality of service. On behalf of the Water Distribution Division 80+ employees, we thank you for your support and appreciate the opportunity to serve you, our valued customers!

Respectfully,

Don Gregoire

Interim Chief Operating Officer - Water Systems

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it.

Ce rapport contient des informations très importantes au sujet de votre eau potable. S'il vous plaît de le traduire ou de parler avec quelqu'un qui le comprend.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Por favor, traducirlo o hablar con alguien que lo entienda.

WATER QUALITY DATA

DISINFECTANTS-CHLORINE RESIDUAL												
Monthly Ave. (ppm)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
Quarterly Running Ave.	1.0			1.2			1.3			1.1		
Running Annual Ave. (RAA)	1.0			1.1			1.2			1.2		
MRDL	MRDLG			VIOLATION			LIKELY SOURCE					
4 as Cl2	4 as Cl2			No			Water additive used to control microbes					

Note: Reported RAA for quarters 1-3 are based on results from previous quarters in 2019 and are not reported on this Disinfectants-Chlorine table. St. Croix monitoring sites were included in the Disinfectants-Chlorine Residual calculations.

OCCURRENCE OF MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE)		
CONTAMINANTS	HIGHEST # OF POSITIVE SAMPLES IN ANY ONE MONTH	TOTAL # OF POSITIVE SAMPLES FOR 2019
Total Coliform	0	0
<i>E. coli</i>	0	0

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS (REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE VIOLATIONS)				
CONTAMINANTS	MCL	NUMBER	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
<i>E. coli</i>	E. coli positive repeat following <i>E. coli</i> positive routine	0	0	Naturally present in the environment. Human and Animal waste.
	TC-positive repeat following <i>E. coli</i> positive routine	0	0	
	Failed to take required repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> positive routine	0	0	
	Failed to test for <i>E. coli</i> when any repeat test positive for TC	0	0	

LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENTS (REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE)				
ASSESSMENT	NO. OF REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS	NO. OF COMPLETED ASSESSMENTS	NO. OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED	NO. OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN
LEVEL 1	0	0	0	0
LEVEL 2	0	0	0	0

WATER QUALITY DATA

STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS RULE (DDBP)

Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are byproducts of disinfecting water with chlorine. Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the highest allowed (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)		1 st Quarter 2020 (Jan)	2 nd Quarter 2020 (May)	3 rd Quarter 2020 (Sep)	4 th Quarter 2020 (Dec)
Pearl B. Larsen		41.4	53.9	100	64.2
LRAA		48.8	48.1	66.3	64.9
Frederiksted Dock		6.8	14.9	7.5	4.5
LRAA		7.1	6.9	8.1	8.4
AirPort		2.1	2.5	3.5	2.3
LRAA		3.0	2.3	2.6	2.6
Calquohoun		BDL	2.6	2.7	1.3
LRAA		1.6	0.93	1.3	1.7
RANGE	HIGHEST LRAA	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
BDL—66.3	66.3	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)		1 st Quarter 2020 (Jan)	2 nd Quarter 2020 (May)	3 rd Quarter 2020 (Sep)	4 th Quarter 2020 (Dec)
Pearl B. Larsen		7.1	8.0	12.4	6.5
LRAA		6.1	6.6	8.7	8.5
Frederiksted Dock		1.5	3.0	2.1	1.0
LRAA		2.1	1.4	1.7	1.9
Airport		BDL	BDL	1.3	1.4
LRAA		0.3	BDL	0.3	0.7
Calquohoun		BDL	0.91	1.0	BDL
LRAA		0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5
RANGE	HIGHEST LRAA	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
BDL—8.7	8.7	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Note: Reported LRAA for quarters 1-3 are based on results from previous quarters in 2019 and are not reported on these DDBP tables.

WATER QUALITY DATA

NITRATE/NITRITE							
CONTAMINANT	LOCATION	UNITS	LEVEL DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
Nitrate	St. Croix Entry	ppm	BDL	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, corrosion of natural products.
Nitrite	St. Croix Entry	ppm	BDL	1	1	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, corrosion of natural products.

Note: Results were Below Detection Limit (BDL).

RADIONUCLIDES CONTAMINANTS							
CONTAMINANT	LOCATION	UNITS	LEVEL DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
Gross Alpha	St. Croix Entry	pCi/L	2.04	-	-	No	Erosion of natural deposits from certain minerals that are radioactive and resulting from oil or gas production and mining activities.
Radium 226/228	St. Croix Entry	pCi/L	BDL	-	-	No	Erosion of natural deposits from certain minerals that are radioactive and resulting from oil or gas production and mining activities
Uranium	St. Croix Entry	ppb		-	-	Not tested	Erosion of natural deposits from certain minerals that are radioactive and resulting from oil or gas production and mining activities.

Note: VIWAPA-STX is on a reduced monitoring schedule of one (1) sampling event every three (3) years. All results were Below Detection Limit (BDL).

ASBESTOS							
CONTAMINANT	LOCATION	UNITS	LEVEL DETECTED	MCL	MCLG	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
Asbestos	St. Croix Entry	mfl	N/D	7	7	No	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains and erosion of natural deposits.

Note: VIWAPA-STX is on a reduced monitoring schedule of once every nine (9) years. Results were None Detected (N/D).

WATER QUALITY DATA

LEAD AND COPPER						
MONITORING PERIOD	CONTAMINANT	AL (ppm)	90 th PERCENTILE VALUE	RANGE	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE
Aug - Sept 2020	Lead (Pb)	0.015	0.000022	None	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
	Copper (Cu)	1.3	0.00093	None	No	

Note: VIWAPA-STX is on a reduced monitoring schedule of collecting thirty (30) samples annually between June and September for three (3) consecutive years. 2020 is the second year of the three (3) consecutive years schedule.



LEAD AND COPPER

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. Public utilities are 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 2 minutes before using the water for drinking and 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>

TERMS DEFINED

90th Percentile Levels – The highest concentration of lead or copper in tap water that is exceeded by 10 percent of the sites sampled during a monitoring period. This value is compared to the lead action level (AL) to determine whether an AL has been exceeded.

Action Level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

EPA Goal/Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

EPA Limit/ Maximum Contaminant Level (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 technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL) - means a level of disinfection added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG) - means a level of disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer tap.

Coliforms - 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.

Level 1 Assessment - is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment - is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

E. coli – are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms.

Non-applicable (N/A) - Not applicable. **Non-detected (N/D)** - Not detected. **BDL** – Below detection limit.

Parts per billion (ppb) – one part per billion (micrograms per liter) corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or one penny in \$10 million.

Parts per million (ppm) – one part per million (milligrams per liter) corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

Curie - the curie (symbol Ci) is a non SI unit of radioactivity, defined as 1 Ci = 3.7×10^{10} decays per second.

PicoCurie – (pCi) 0.000,000,000,001 (one trillionth) of a Curie, an international measurement unit of radioactivity.

Million Fibers per Liter (mfl) - million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

VIWAPA

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA) is a publicly owned utility company, which produces and distributes electricity and potable water to the residents of the United States Virgin Islands. Operation of the Authority's water distribution systems and standpipes are done on St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John.

VIWAPA obtains water produced by Seven Seas Water from one source, seawater. As water travels over the land and into the sea or filters through the ground settling in aquifers, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

REGULATING AGENCIES

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 mean that the water poses a health risk.

The Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (VIDPNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) ensures that potable water is safe to drink. Both agencies have prescribed limits on the contaminants in water provided by public water systems. VIDPNR has established the same criteria for contaminants in bottled water.

USEPA defines a water contaminant as any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. USEPA sets legal limits on the levels of certain contaminants in drinking water. The legal limits reflect both the level that protects human health and the level that water systems can achieve using the best available technology. Besides prescribing these legal limits, USEPA rules set water testing schedules and methods that water systems must follow. The rules also list acceptable techniques for treating contaminated water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act gives individual territories the opportunity to set and enforce their own drinking water standards if the standards are at least as strong as USEPA's national standards. Most territories directly oversee the water systems within their borders.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Some people are 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 for infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available for USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained from the hotline or EPA's website.

Nitrate and Nitrite are nitrogen-oxygen chemical units which combine with various organic and inorganic compounds. Once taken into the body, nitrates are converted to nitrites. USEPA has set a MCL because the possible presence can pose a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. The MCL for nitrates has been set at 10ppm, and for nitrites at 1ppm. Excessive nitrate levels in drinking water can cause methemoglobinemia also called blue baby syndrome. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

VIWAPA –STX WATER FACTS

1. **There are about 600 plus valves, 250 hydrants, on island.**
2. **Three (3) pump stations to assist with delivering of water.**
3. **Serves a population of about 36,000 people.**
4. **Consist of 72 sample stations for water quality testing.**
5. **Daily monitoring of all water quality parameters like chlorine residual, pH, conductivity, turbidity, temperature and orthophosphate residual.**
6. **Approximately 200 bacteriological test performed every month.**



Photo above depicts one of VIWAPA's STX water sampling stations.

WATER FUN FACTS

1. **Roughly 70% of the human body is made up of water.**
2. **Water makes up 83% of our blood, 70% of our brain, and 90% of our lungs.**
3. **Drinking too much water too quickly can lead to water intoxication. Water intoxication occurs when water dilutes the sodium level in the bloodstream and causes an imbalance of water in the brain.**
4. **By the time a person is feeling thirsty, his or her body has already lost over 1% of it's total water amount.**
5. **The weight a person loses directly after intense physical activity is weight from water, not fat.**
6. **Pure water (solely hydrogen and oxygen atoms) has a neutral pH of 7, which is neither acidic nor basic.**
7. **Flushing toilets represent the largest portion of indoor water use.**
8. **Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels it carries chemicals, minerals and nutrients with it.**

VI Water and Power Authority

P.O. Box 1009

St. Croix, VI 00820

www.viwapa.vi

**Please contact VIWAPA's Communications Division
at 340-774-3552 Extension 2147 if you have any
questions about this Potable Water Quality Report for
VI0000097 (St. Croix)**