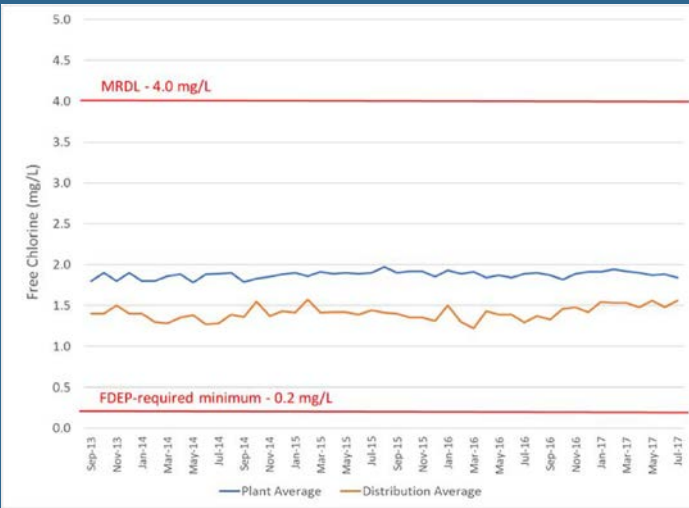


## Historic Chlorine Residual Levels



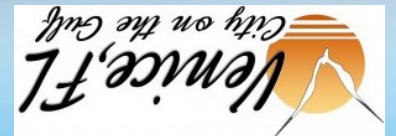
Chlorine is essential to drinking water safety and chlorination is considered one of the most significant public health advancements in U.S. history by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). State and federal regulations require chlorine residual to be less than 4 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and greater than 0.2 mg/L in the water distribution system. As the figure on the left shows, the City consistently provides a chlorine residual safely within this range.



mg/L – milligram per liter or part per million (ppm), a ppm is equivalent to 1 liter (approximately 1 quart) in a swimming pool or 1 penny in \$10,000



City of Venice Utilities Department  
200 N. Warfield Avenue  
Venice, Florida 34285-4637



# WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## Background

The City was recently in the news due to claims contained in a report released by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) concerning drinking water quality in the City of Venice. **With public health and safety as the City's top priorities**, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to conduct a "comprehensive assessment" of the water produced by its Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant (RO WTP). Arcadis U.S., Inc. was selected by the City to conduct the water quality assessment, which included an assessment of the current treatment process, monitoring and reporting practices.

**In their report, EWG misrepresents data to encourage consumers to buy water filters.** The EWG Tap Water Database claims that the City's water exceeds "health guidelines" for chlorate, radium-226, and total trihalomethanes (TTHM); however, EWG selectively chose non-enforceable guidelines based on outdated, rescinded, and/or disputed guidelines as the basis for their claims. Regarding the claim that the City was in violation of monitoring requirements, this issue was resolved in 2013, and a reporting issue between FDEP and USEPA resulted in an erroneous determination that the City is in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. **Arcadis confirmed with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that the City is in 100% compliance with all drinking water standards and monitoring and reporting requirements.**

Municipal water systems do need scrutiny beyond government testing and EWG's database may expose small systems where compliance is lax, but this database unfairly inflates the risks. **It's notable that EWG is also promoting the sale of water filters with EWG receiving small donations for filter purchases made on Amazon.** The data for the EWG database is obtained through the Water Quality Association, which its website describes as "an organization created in 1974 from the merger of two trade associations, Water Conditioning Association International (representing water treatment equipment dealers) and the Water Conditioning Foundation (representing water treatment equipment manufacturers and suppliers)."

## Is My Water Safe To Drink?

**Yes. The City is in 100% compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations and its water is safe.**

To measure the water quality, samples were collected on October 24 and 25, 2017 and sent to TestAmerica – a firm certified by the State of Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories for drinking water analysis. TestAmerica utilizes USEPA-approved methods for drinking water analyses and follows all quality control requirements for certification. It is also important to note that since TestAmerica did not conduct the previous analyses reported by the City, they can be considered as third-party verification of previously reported results.

Parameter	MCL	Test Results	Violation?
Chlorate	NA	600 ppb	No
Radium-226	5 pCi/L	0.201 pCi/L	No
TTHM	80 ppb	7.3 – 14 ppb	No

NA – not applicable  
MCL – maximum containment level  
ppb – parts per billion, a ppb is comparable to 1 milliliter (about the size of a sugar cube) of water in a swimming pool or a single penny in \$10 million  
pCi/L – picocuries per liter, a curie measures the radioactivity of one gram of radium. A picocurie (pCi) is one trillionth of a curie

## How Is The Quality Of My Water Regulated And How Can I Be Sure It Is Safe to Drink?

**The City's public water system is governed nationally by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and locally by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), which has given regulatory rights, within Sarasota County, to the Sarasota County Health Department (SCHD) for governance and regulation of well construction and monitoring in addition to water treatment and distribution system water quality; and to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for governance of the City's water supply. After multiple discussions with FDEP and FDOH, both agencies agreed the City is in 100% compliance with all drinking water quality standards and reporting requirements.**

As part of its assessment, **Arcadis also conducted interviews with Water Department staff to verify background, licensing, and training to ensure an adequate knowledge of standard operating procedures.** Operators were also interviewed to confirm their understanding of roles and levels of understanding. **With over 100 years' combined experience, each staff member was found to display the highest level of competence in their understanding of and ability to complete their required tasks.** Additionally, their knowledge of the treatment and distribution system was very apparent, as was their care and diligence in performing their jobs.

