



WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

City of Venice

December 10, 2017

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Presentation outline

Scope of assessment

Review of EWG claims

Reporting and recordkeeping review

Sampling and analysis

Summary and conclusions

Scope of assessment

- 🔥 Evaluated the claims of EWG and the basis for those claims
- 🔥 Discussed compliance status with both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- 🔥 Reviewed historic monthly operating reports
- 🔥 Reviewed historic water quality data and conducted independent water quality sampling and analysis
- 🔥 Discussed WTP operations, monitoring, reporting and sampling procedures with City staff throughout completion of the evaluation

EWG Tap Water Database

Venice Water Department

EWG's drinking water quality report shows results of tests conducted by the water utility and provided to the Environmental Working Group by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as well as information from the U.S. EPA Enforcement and Compliance History database (ECHO). For the latest quarter assessed by the EPA (January to March 2017), tap water provided by this water utility was in compliance with federal health-based drinking water standards.

WHAT ABOUT LEAD?

WANT TO FILTER THESE CONTAMINANTS OUT?

3

contaminants detected above health guidelines

3

other detected contaminants

Includes chemicals detected in 2015 for which annual utility averages exceeded an EWG-selected health guideline established by a federal or state public health authority; chemicals detected under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3) program in 2013 to 2015, for which annual utility averages exceeded a health guideline established by a federal or state public health authority; radiological contaminants detected between 2010 and 2015.

Chlorate *harm to the thyroid*



Radiological contaminants *cancer*



Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) *cancer*



1

Misleading
characterization and
reporting of data

“EWG-selected health guidelines”

Review of EWG Claims

| Parameter | MCL | City Levels | Violation? (Y/N) | Best Available Technology |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|---|
| Chlorate ¹ | NA | 370 – 413 ug/L | N | Source control and inventory management |
| Radium-226 ² | 5 pCi/L | 0.34 pCi/L | N | Reverse osmosis |
| TTHM ³ | 80 ug/L | 11 – 16 ug/L | N | Reverse osmosis |

MCL – maximum contaminant level

1. There is no MCL for chlorate and routine monitoring is not required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Reported levels are based on results of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) monitoring conducted in October 2013.
2. Sample collected in May 2017.
3. Samples collected in August 2017.

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Chlorate *harm to the thyroid*



Radiological contaminants *cancer*



Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) *cancer*



1

Misleading characterization and reporting of data

2

Attempts to sell water filters

3

What about lead?

What about lead?

What About Lead?

[Venice Water Department](#) - [click here to return to the utility page.](#)

According to EWG's analysis of data from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System, this utility complied with federal water quality regulations from July 2014 - December 2014, the latest assessment period available.

90 percent of lead samples collected by this utility measured below 0.0 parts per billion (ppb).

Under the federal Lead and Copper Rule, 90 percent of household samples must have less than 15 ppb lead. If this legal limit is exceeded, the water utility must apply measures to control lead leaching from the pipes.

Complying with the EPA's lead rules doesn't mean that water is safe for children to drink. Recent EPA modeling suggests that lead concentrations in the 3.8 to 15 ppb range put a formula-fed baby at risk of elevated blood lead levels. In 2009, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment set a public health goal level of 0.2 ppb for lead in drinking water to protect against even subtle IQ loss for children.

Lead in headlines

Since 2014, and the crisis that rocked the community of Flint, Mich., lead in drinking water has been a topic thrust into the headlines and the minds of millions of Americans.

On **Aug. 14, 2014** a water boil advisory was declared for certain parts of the city. In response to coliform contamination, the city of Flint decided to switch the source of its drinking water. What occurred over the next three years amounted to

No evidence of any lead issues in Venice

“doesn’t mean that water is safe”

attempt to link to Flint

“Other detected contaminants”

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WHAT ABOUT LEAD?

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contaminants detected above health guidelines

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other detected contaminants

Includes chemicals detected in 2015 for which annual utility averages were lower than an EWG-selected health guideline established by a federal or state public health authority; chemicals detected under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3) program in 2013 to 2015, for which annual utility averages were lower than an EWG-selected health guideline established by a federal or state public health authority.

Chromium (total)



Haloacetic acids (HAA5)



Strontium



Implies any contaminant
at any concentration is
unsafe

Simply not true, deliberate
mischaracterization

Reporting and recordkeeping review

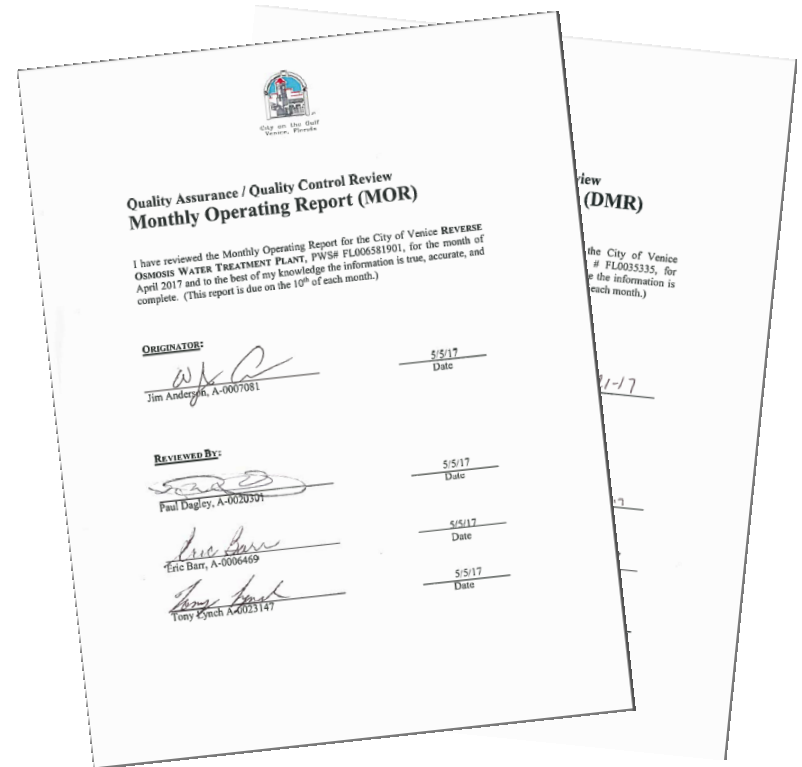
Reviewed 4 years of monthly operating reports (2013-2017)

Reviewed 4 years of SWFWMD water use reporting (2013 – 2017)

Reviewed 2 years of discharge monitoring reports (2015-2017)

Skype meetings with FDEP and FDOH

Interviewed water treatment staff



Both FDEP and FDOH agree the City is in 100% compliance

ECHO Database

From January to March 2017 this water utility was in violation of monitoring for contaminants or reporting monitoring tests to state agencies as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act: **YES**

12 QUARTERS

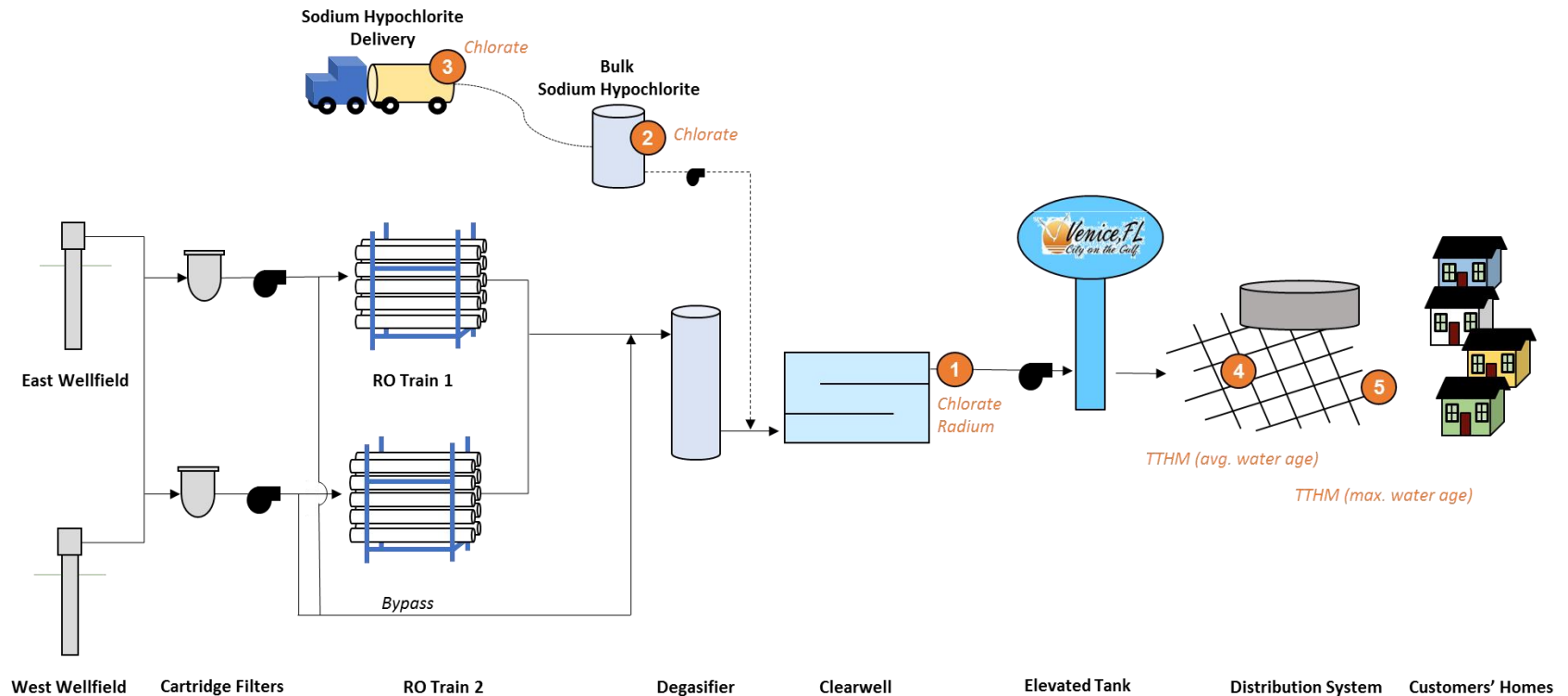
in violation of any federal drinking water standard from April 2014 to March 2017

Information in this section comes from the U.S. EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online database. [Click here for more information for this utility.](#)

- 🔥 Main break in 2013, late collecting samples
- 🔥 City collected all required samples and ensured public health was protected
- 🔥 Self-reported to FDEP, FDOH and self-disclosed in Consumer Confidence Report
- 🔥 FDEP acknowledged this was addressed immediately
- 🔥 Computer code issues and *three year* turnaround to correct ECHO

FDEP confirmed the City is in 100% compliance with reporting requirements

Sampling and analysis



Analytical results

| Parameter (units) | Sampling Location | Our Results | Prior City Results | MCL |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|-----|
| Chlorate (ug/L) | Entry point to distribution system | 600 | 370 - 413 | NA |
| Radium (pCi/L) | Entry point to distribution system | 0.201 | 0.34 | 5 |
| Total trihalomethanes (ug/L) | Stage 2 DBPR Site #1 (booster station “on”) | 8.6 | 11 | 80 |
| | Stage 2 DBPR Site #1 (booster station “off”) | 7.3 | | |
| | Stage 2 DBPR Site #2 (booster station “on”) | 13 | 16 | |
| | Stage 2 DBPR Site #2 (booster station “off”) | 14 | | |

MCL – maximum contaminant level

NA – not applicable. No MCL exists for chlorate.

Summary and conclusions

EWG's claims are without merit

Sampling corroborates results previously reported by City

City's water supply is safe and in 100% compliance

Water Department staff are appropriately licensed, trained and make protection of public health their top priority

Q&A

