

Lajes Field Quarterly Drinking Water Quality Report

April – June 2014



The 65th Medical Operations Squadron, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BE) informs consumers quarterly about the quality of their drinking water. BE conducts testing monthly to ensure compliance with the Final Governing Standards for Portugal (FGS-P). The FGS-P water quality standards are a compilation of the standards published within the European Union, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act, and local Portuguese standards. Lajes Field has seven groundwater wells and six storage reservoirs which supply our potable water system. All seven wells extract water from the same partially-confined aquifer, which meets the demand requirements for the entire installation. Lajes Field chlorinates water for disinfection purposes prior to distribution

The sources for drinking water both tap water and bottled water (no bottled water is produced on this island) 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 materials and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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 water poses a health risk.

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 for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

From April to June 2014, BE collected a total of 175 different water samples. The drinking water for Lajes Field was sampled for all contaminants required by the FGS-P. It was discovered that the methods for two analytes, Diquat and Endothall, are not sensitive enough to measure the low limit of the FGS-P Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL); however the methods are low enough to measure at the EPA's MCLs. The analytes were compared to the EPA's guidelines. The levels for both Diquat and Endothall are far below the EPA's MCLs and pose no threat to the water system. All other levels were below the MCL established by the FGS-P. In summary, the drinking water supplied to facilities on base is within compliance and safe to drink.

Individual analyte results are available for review by contacting the BE office number listed below.

For more information contact:

- 65 MDOS/SGOJ (BE), DSN 535-6206 or commercial 295-576-206
- 65 MDG/SGP, DSN 535-3261 or commercial 295-573-261

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