



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 24-110**

**Date:** July 22, 2024

**To:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

**From:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager *Susan Grant*

**Re:** Peele Dixie Well Testing Data

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The Fort Lauderdale Country Club (FLCC) wellfield is comprised of a total of eight wells providing raw water from the Biscayne aquifer to the Peele Dixie Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The legal firm, Ferraro Law Group, is requesting Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) data on 29 analytes for all wells at the FLCC to support the City's claim in the PFAS class action lawsuit. The City does not currently have this comprehensive data. Since the City's accredited laboratory is not certified to perform testing for the 29 analytes, the City will utilize an independent testing laboratory (Pace Analytical) for completion of this comprehensive testing. Staff estimates this process to sample, test, and get official results for all 29 analytes for the eight wells will be completed by October 30, 2024.

There is currently one well that does not have a pump and motor, and the well plumbing is disconnected while awaiting delivery of equipment to complete the rehabilitation of the well. To collect samples and provide data for the remaining seven wells, the City will have to perform sequential shutting down of the Peele Dixie WTP to flush, collect samples, and pass bacteriological testing of each well in accordance with regulations. Due to limitations in the disposal capacity of the single deep injection well, the sampling operation is limited to flushing and sampling two wells at one time. This process requires shutting down the Peele Dixie WTP and redirecting the supply well raw water to the deep injection well. Once the cycle is complete, the Plant will be brought back into operation. This sequential operation involving shutting down the Plant will be repeated a total of four times to cover all eight wells. Each shut down period is expected to last one to two weeks before normal operations resume, although may be extended if water conditions do not meet specific standards described below. While Peele Dixie is shut down for testing, the Fiveash WTP will provide all drinking water to the City.

During each of the four testing periods when the City shuts down the membrane water treatment process at Peele Dixie to switch wells for testing, there is a risk of problems with well raw water quality, specifically with passing the required level of sand density index (SDI). A high SDI reading is caused by the presence of Iron Oxide and turbidity in the raw water which can damage and clog the membranes. Recently, the City had experienced issues with high SDI in incoming raw water from the FLCC wellfield which necessitated shutting down the Plant for an extensive period (10 days) to avoid damaging the membrane elements. If high SDI is encountered during any of the planned sequential shut-down and restarting the Plant, as described above, the WTP will remain shut down for an extensive period to mitigate high SDI and consequently, the schedule of October 30, 2024, would change.

While the Peele Dixie Plant is shut down for these testing periods, or for any maintenance, water supplied to the distribution system will be provided solely from the Fiveash WTP. This will require significant public notifications to reduce complaints about the color of finished water from City residents and the consecutive system. Staff will inform the City Commission ahead of any scheduled shut-down of the Peele Dixie Water Treatment Plant while performing the above maintenance activities. Staff will also coordinate with Strategic Communications to provide public notification to residents affected by this change in operation.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager  
Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager  
Thomas J. Ansboro, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
CMO Managers






# Memo 24-110 Peele Dixie Testing Data

Final Audit Report

2024-07-23

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