



DRINKING WATER WARNING

Okaloosa County Water & Sewer's South Potable Water System Tested Positive for Fecal Indicator

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

June 4, 2026

Our water system recently detected a fecal indicator (*E. coli*) at one well in the Okaloosa Main Public Water System (PWS ID #1460506). As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On June 2, 2026, we collected samples from numerous public water supply wells in the Okaloosa Main system in South Okaloosa. One of those wells, Hawkins Well, had a sample that tested positive for *E. coli* (a potential indicator of fecal coliform).

This notice applies to certain customers in unincorporated Fort Walton Beach and unincorporated Mary Esther (Florosa). Please see the attached map for the affected customers.

Customers need to understand that this was a raw water sample (untreated/before disinfection) from one water source of numerous water sources. The raw water from this well gets treated/disinfected, and then goes out to the customers via a network of distribution pipes. All samples taken in the distribution system tested negative for *E. coli*. Based on other system testing, the one positive *E. coli* sample indicates most likely a sampling error at the Hawkins Well or possibly from maintenance that was recently completed at the well.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- **Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.**
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

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What is being done?

The Hawkins Well went offline this morning and is currently not pumping into the distribution system. Okaloosa County Water & Sewer (OCWS) is actively pumping the well overboard (not into the system) and will be taking additional raw water samples to conduct further testing. We will inform you via another notice when tests show no *E. coli* and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next week.

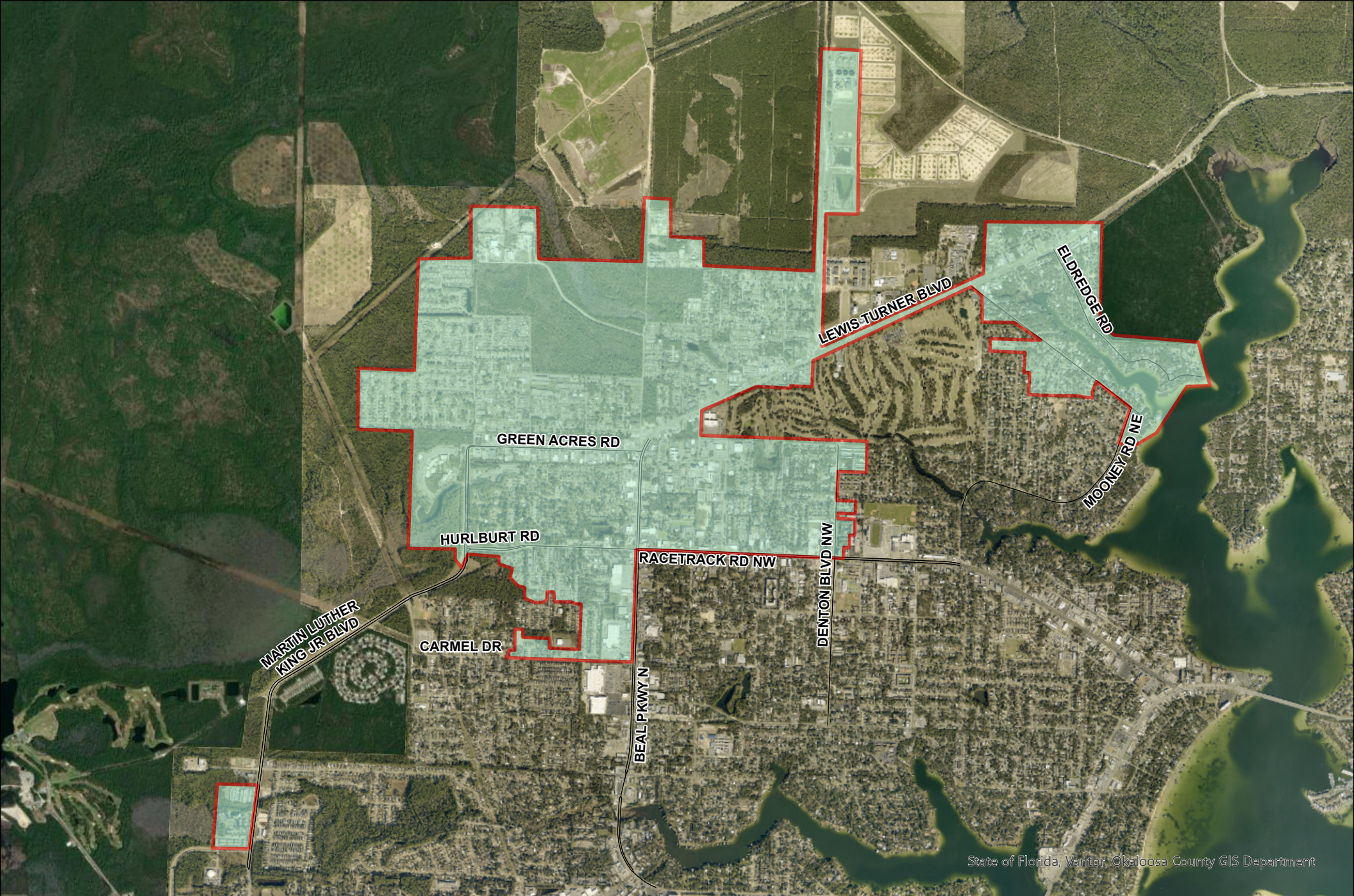
For more information, please contact OCWS at 850-651-7171 (during business hours) or 850-651-7174 (after hours). General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water Website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

This notice is being sent to you by OCWS. State Water System ID#: 1460506.

Date distributed: June 4, 2026.

(see attached maps)

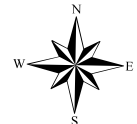


State of Florida, Vantor, Okaloosa County GIS Department



 Affected Areas

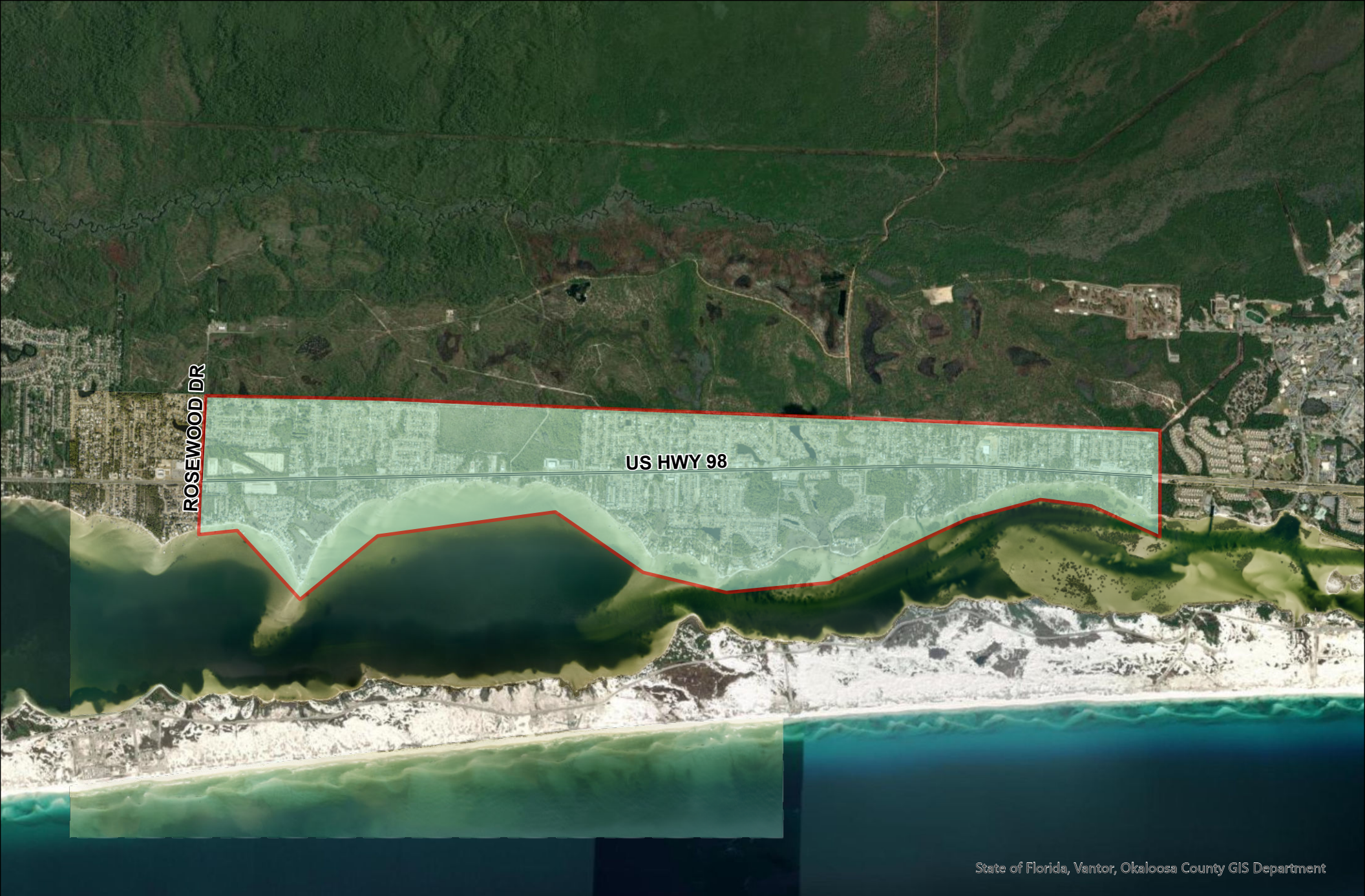
Boil Water Notice Areas



OCWS Engineering
Created: June 4, 2026

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 Affected Areas

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