



## TIDEWATER'S ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

**DOVER, DE (June 28, 2010)** -- Tidewater Utilities, Inc., ("Tidewater") a water utility serving more than 43,000 retail and contract customers in over 348 residential communities and 582 commercial establishments throughout Delaware, has issued its Annual Drinking Water Quality Report on 2009 water quality data to its customers. Tidewater operates over 163 wells and 86 water plants. In 2009, the Company delivered more than 1.8 billion gallons of water throughout its service area, which extends from lower New Castle County in the north of Delaware to Sussex County near the state's southern border with Maryland. Tidewater is the largest private water supplier south of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

Tidewater conducts thousands of tests annually on its water quality to ensure water delivered to customers meets federal and state primary requirements. Tidewater's report lists water quality data for each of the communities it serves. Issued in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, Tidewater's Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of the Company's water supply and treatment methods and summarizes the Company's water quality results as compared to state and federal standards. The report also includes monitoring data and water-related health information.

Included in Tidewater's water report is water quality data for Southern Shores Water Company, LLC, which serves 2,600 customers in Sussex County.

Tidewater issues the water quality reports annually to keep customers informed about their drinking water and to increase awareness of the need to protect and preserve our drinking water sources. In addition, the Company is suggesting ways everyone can join in protecting drinking water sources through the following actions:

- *Checking with local authorities to learn how to dispose of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, as well as oil, paint and cleaners properly.*
- *Keeping chemicals and debris out of storm drains, which may flow into surface waterways.*
- *Limiting the use of fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.*
- *Practicing wise water use (repairing leaking faucets or toilets, using the dishwasher with full loads,) etc.*
- *Exploring the use of WaterSense® labeled water-efficient products.*

Copies of the report have been mailed to all customers. The report is also available on the Tidewater website at <http://www.tuiwater.com> under Customer Care. To obtain a copy of Tidewater's Annual Water Quality Report, please call (800) 523-7224. Customers are encouraged to share the water quality report with all water consumers at their locations. Tidewater serves a wide range of water and wastewater services including consulting, contract operations, maintenance and bulk water supply. Tidewater is a subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company, NASDAQ:MSEX.

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For More Information:

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