

Department of Health

Water Quality Monitoring Programs
FL Dept of Health, Division of Environmental Public
Health, Bureau of Water Programs
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Healthy Beaches Program Structure

- **Administered by the Florida Department of Health (DOH)**
- **34 County Health Departments handle sampling, some lab work and notification in their respective counties while the state health office handles the data collection/reporting process and policy making**
- **Beach monitoring data is passed to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who then forward it to the U.S. EPA as part of a comprehensive state data set- currently STORET**
- **Advisory data is sent to EPA directly by DOH and DEP uses this for impaired waters rule.**

Federal BEACH Act History

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act; a part of the Clean Water Act

EPA grants to eligible States and Territories to develop and implement work products consistent with BEACH Act requirements. FL share: average of \$530,000 per year. From 2000-2011, also had \$525,000 from state funds.



Funds allowed Florida to conduct weekly sampling at 304 Beaches for two indicator bacteria since August 2002 to Sept 2011.

Current Program and Data Structure

- Membrane filter methods are the preferred method of analysis
 - EPA method 1600 for Enterococcus
 - SM 9222D for fecal coliform
- 20 labs statewide process all samples
 - Included are state, county, municipal , & for-profit private

Current Program Structure

Public Health Swimming Advisory Standards

- *Enterococci sp.* result exceeds a Single Sample Maximum (SSM) of 104 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters of beach water sampled
- fecal coliform- SSM of 400 CFU/100 mL
- *Enterococci* GeoMean max. 35 CFU/100 mL

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Results

All Results (up to 12/31/10)

- Florida's 34 coastal counties have reported a total of 2725 poor fecal coliform results, 5521 poor enterococci single sample results, 5643 enterococci geometric mean exceedances, and 7078 advisories/warnings

	<u>% poor</u>
Fecal Coliform	1.74% (of 156,233 samples)
Enterococci	3.53% (of 156,233 samples)
Enterococci Geometric Mean	4.00% (of 141,063 samples)
Advisories	4.53% (of 156,233 samples)



...to promote and protect the health and safety of all Floridians.

Florida's health
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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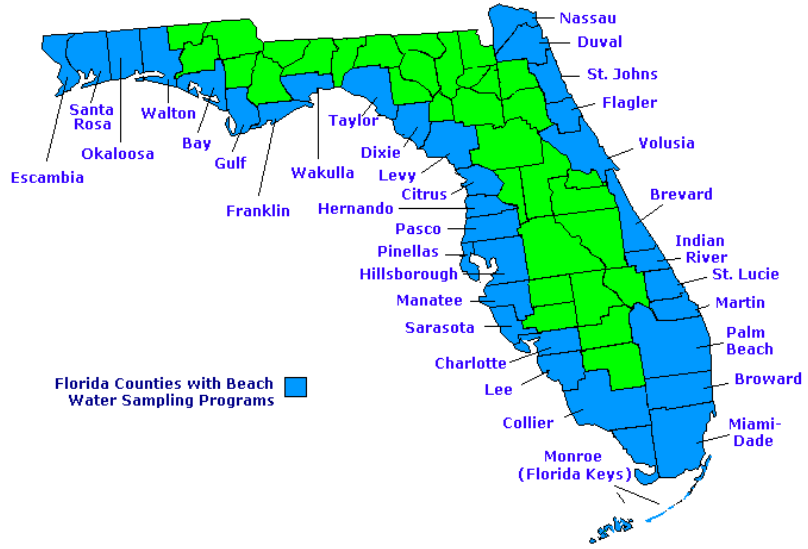
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Florida Healthy Beaches Program

Beginning with a 1998 pilot program, 11 Florida coastal counties began conducting beach water sampling every two weeks and reporting the results here and in local news media. In August 2000, the beach water sampling program was expanded to include the 34 Florida counties shown on the map below. In August 2002, the coastal counties began collecting weekly samples.

The coastal beach water samples collected by the county health departments are analyzed for enterococci and fecal coliform bacteria. High concentrations of these bacteria may indicate the presence of microorganisms that could cause disease, infections, or rashes. County health departments will issue health advisories or warnings when these conditions are confirmed. For details about the current program and a link to the pilot program, [click here](#).

To review the beach water sampling results for reporting counties, **click on a county name** on the map or in the table below. Each county page also has a link to data collected since August 2000.



Bay	Collier	Franklin	Lee	Monroe	Pinellas	Taylor
Brevard	Dixie	Gulf	Levy	Nassau	St. Johns	Volusia
Broward	Duval	Hernando	Manatee	Okaloosa	St. Lucie	Wakulla
Charlotte	Escambia	Hillsborough	Martin	Palm Beach	Santa Rosa	Walton
Citrus	Flagler	Indian River	Miami-Dade	Pasco	Sarasota	

If you have questions or concerns please contact the Department of Health,
Bureau of Water Programs at (850) 245-4240.

Information and Advisory Signs

- Permanent signs
- Daily Program Info, or
- Public health advisory



**THIS BEACH IS MONITORED
AS PART OF THE HEALTHY
BEACHES PROGRAM.**

**NO WATER QUALITY
ADVISORY AT THIS TIME.**

WATER SAMPLES ARE TAKEN WEEKLY TO
CHECK BACTERIA LEVELS. HIGH LEVELS
INDICATE AN INCREASED RISK OF ILLNESS
FROM SWIMMING.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT THE COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT, OR VISIT THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH'S BEACH WATER QUALITY
WEBSITE:

www.doh.state.fl.us
SELECT "BEACH WATER QUALITY"
FROM THE SUBJECT LIST.

ADVISORY

**HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS.
SWIMMING NOT RECOMMENDED.
INCREASED RISK OF ILLNESS
AT THIS TIME.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE
LOCAL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OR VISIT THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S BEACH WATER QUALITY
WEBSITE:
www.doh.state.fl.us
(SELECT "BEACH WATER QUALITY"
FROM THE SUBJECT LIST.)



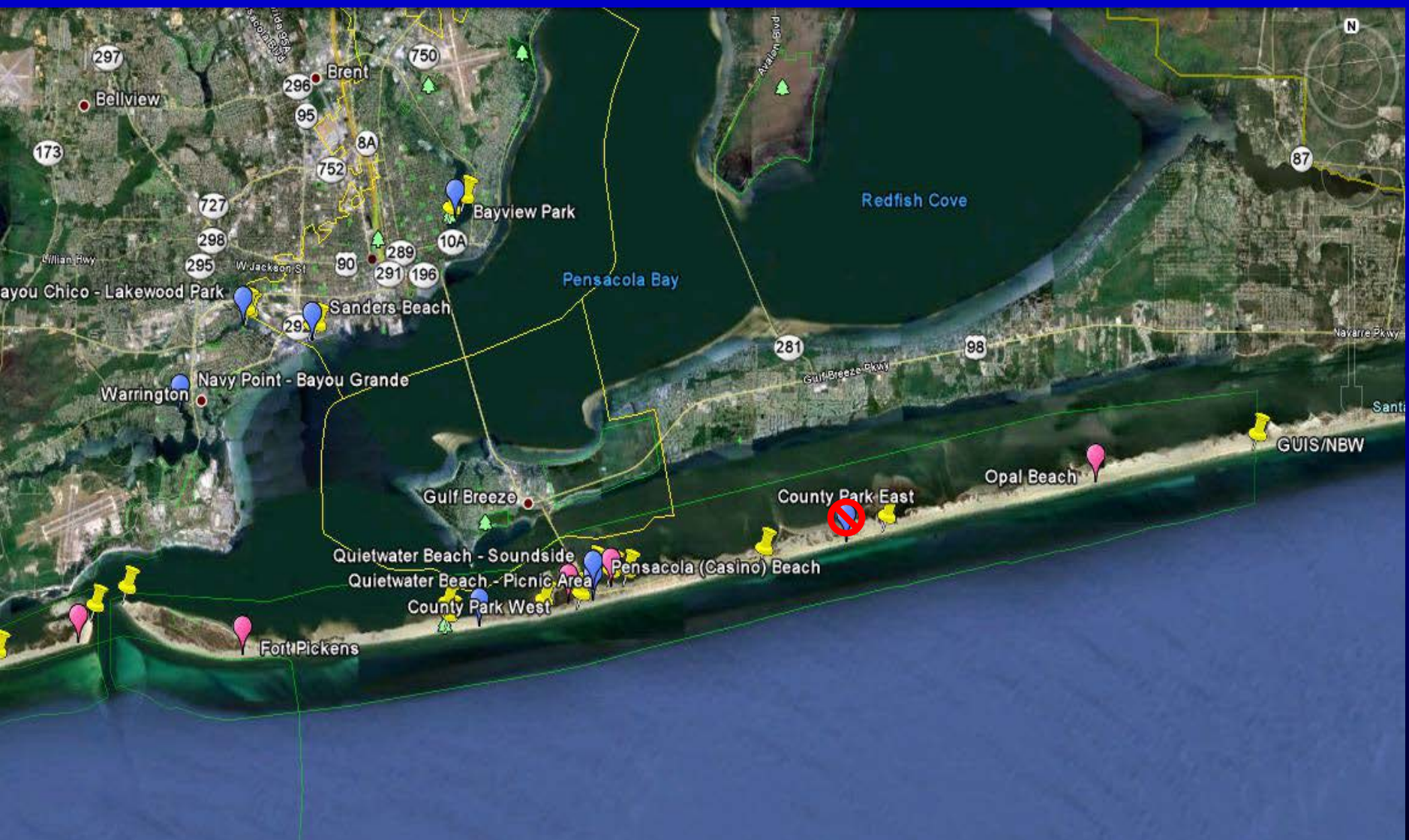
Program Changes as of Sept 1, 2011

- Change from weekly to bi-weekly testing
- Geomean can no longer be calculated, only the SSM
- Suspend winter sampling at northern locations
- Test for only enterococci, eliminate coliform
- Beaches that will continue to be monitored
 - Retain swim seasonal 246 of 304 beaches
 - Retain 144 year-round beaches
 - Release only beaches with good water quality history or very low usage

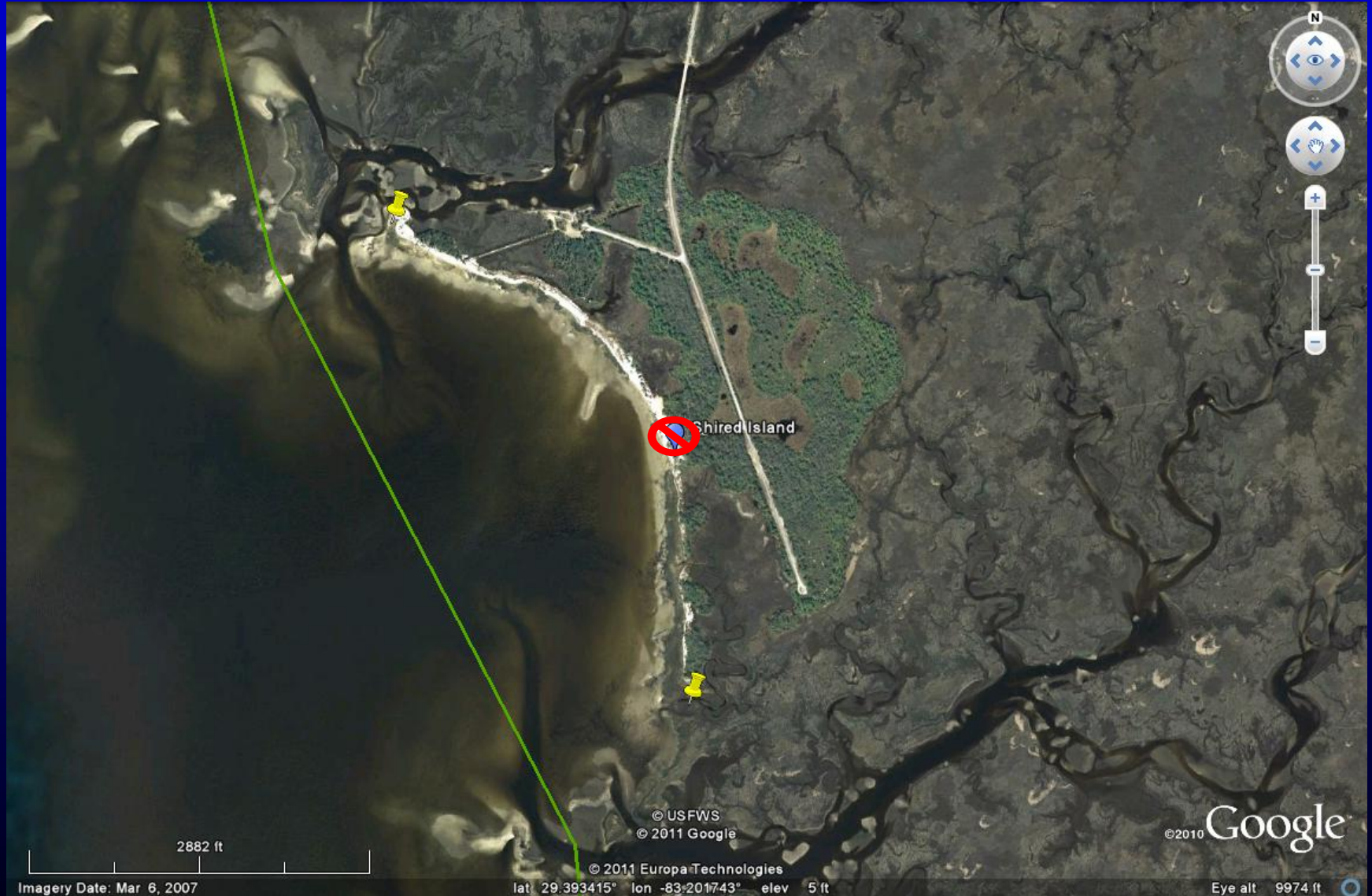
Program Consistency

- EPA method 1600 for enterococci will continue to be the preferred method.
- A swimming **Advisory** will be issued If an enterococci result exceeds a Single Sample Maximum (SSM) of 104 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters of beach water sampled
 - If no resample can be collected an **Advisory** will be issued immediately.
- Commercial and government labs are retained
- County Health Department staff sample and post results to real time database, to signs and to media
- DOH maintains EPA grant, database, and reporting

Escambia East



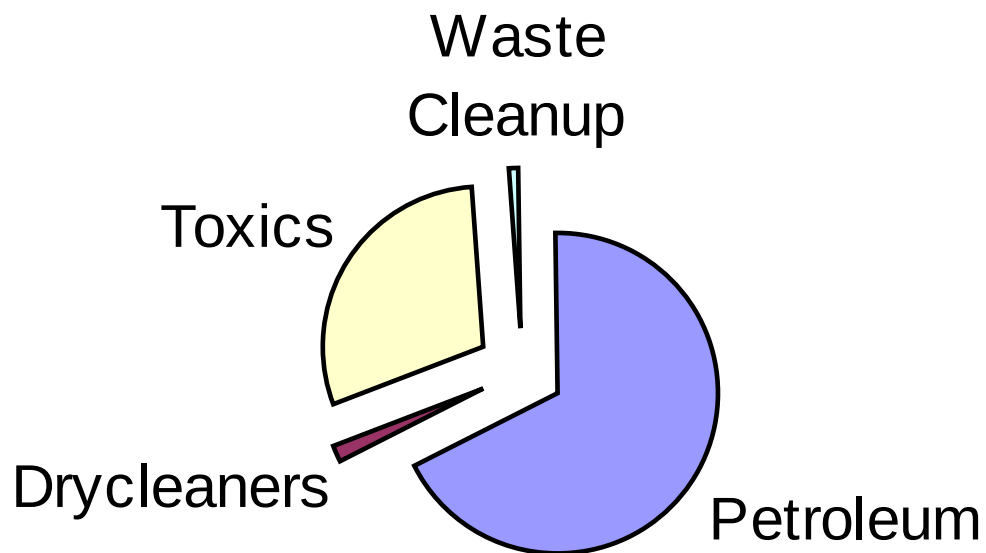
Dixie County



Clean Water is Essential For a High Quality of Life



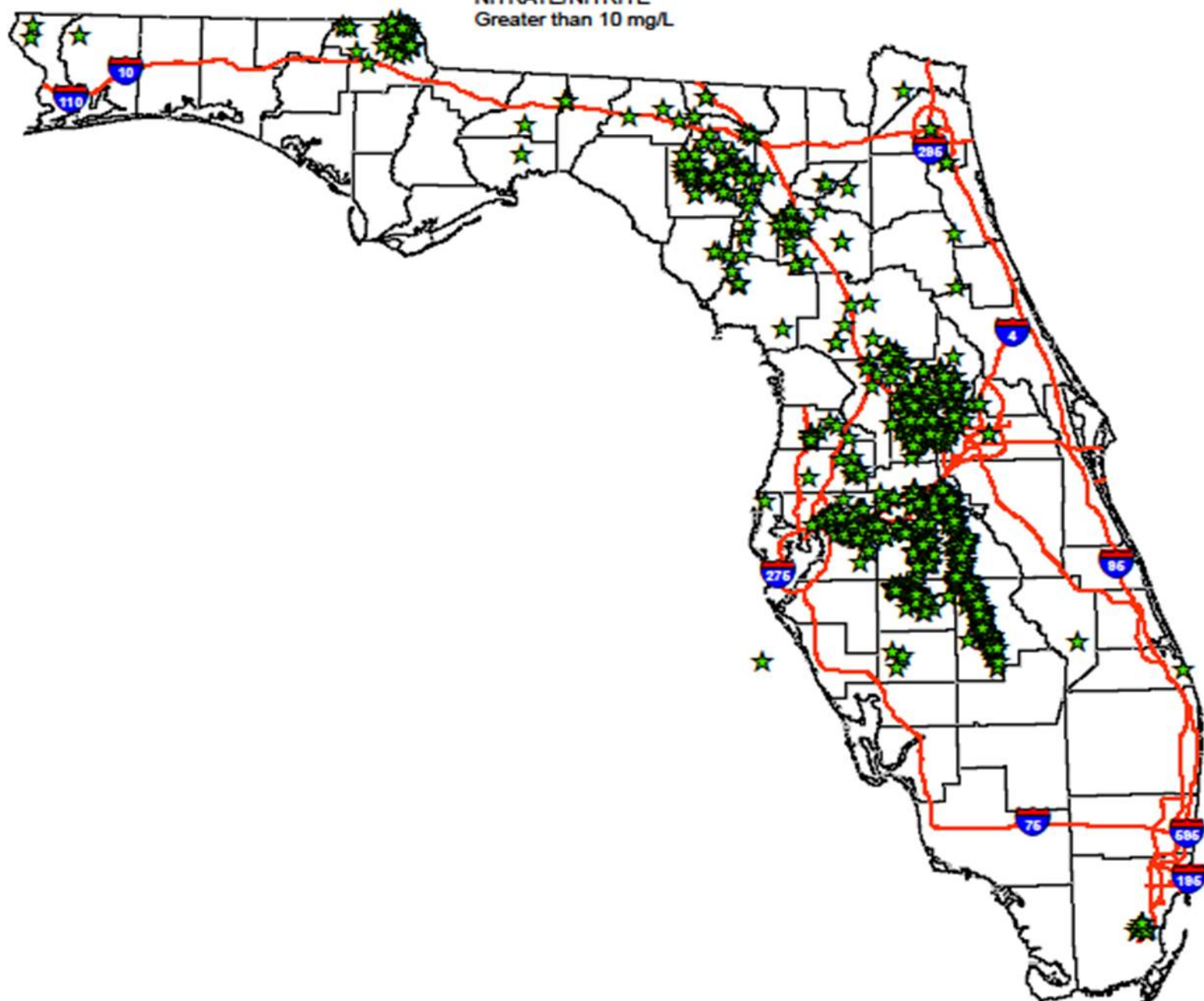
Well Surveillance Program



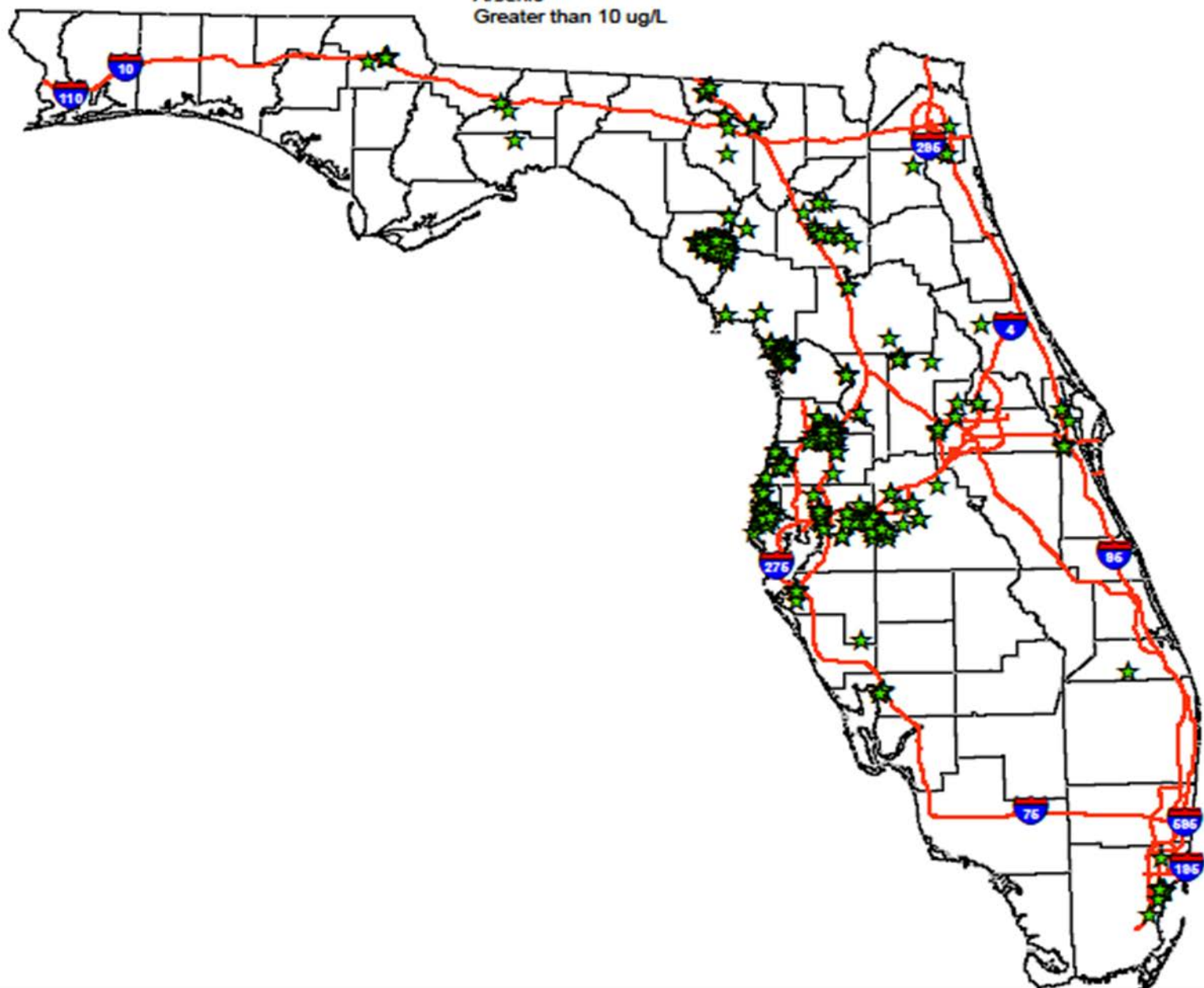
The Drinking Water Toxics Program is designed to identify contaminated drinking water. It is a program that will be used, because it is free. It has become an integral part of the contamination assessment process.

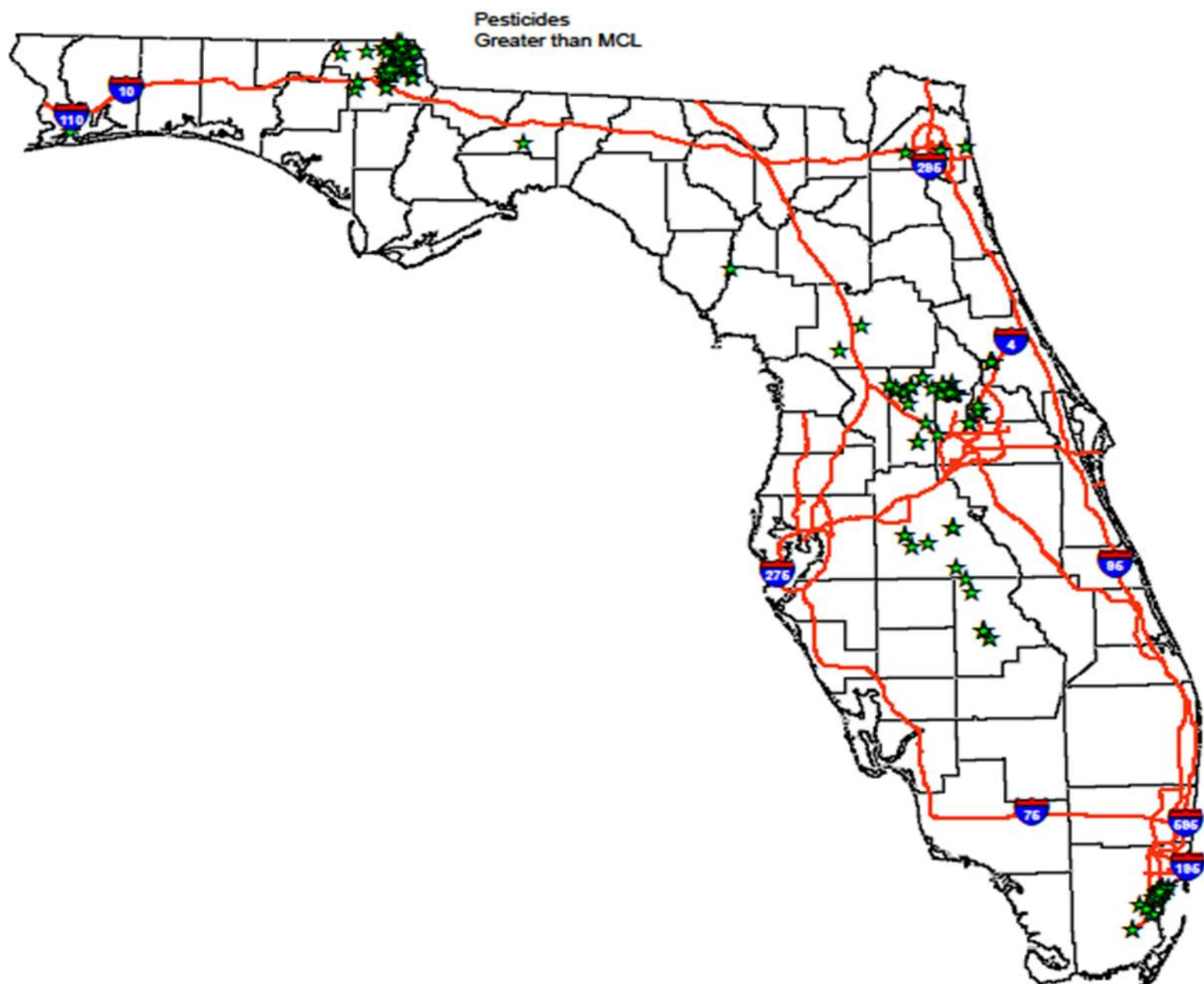
The process begins by sampling a well and if positive, then resampling is performed until all contaminated wells are identified.

NITRATE/NITRITE
Greater than 10 mg/L

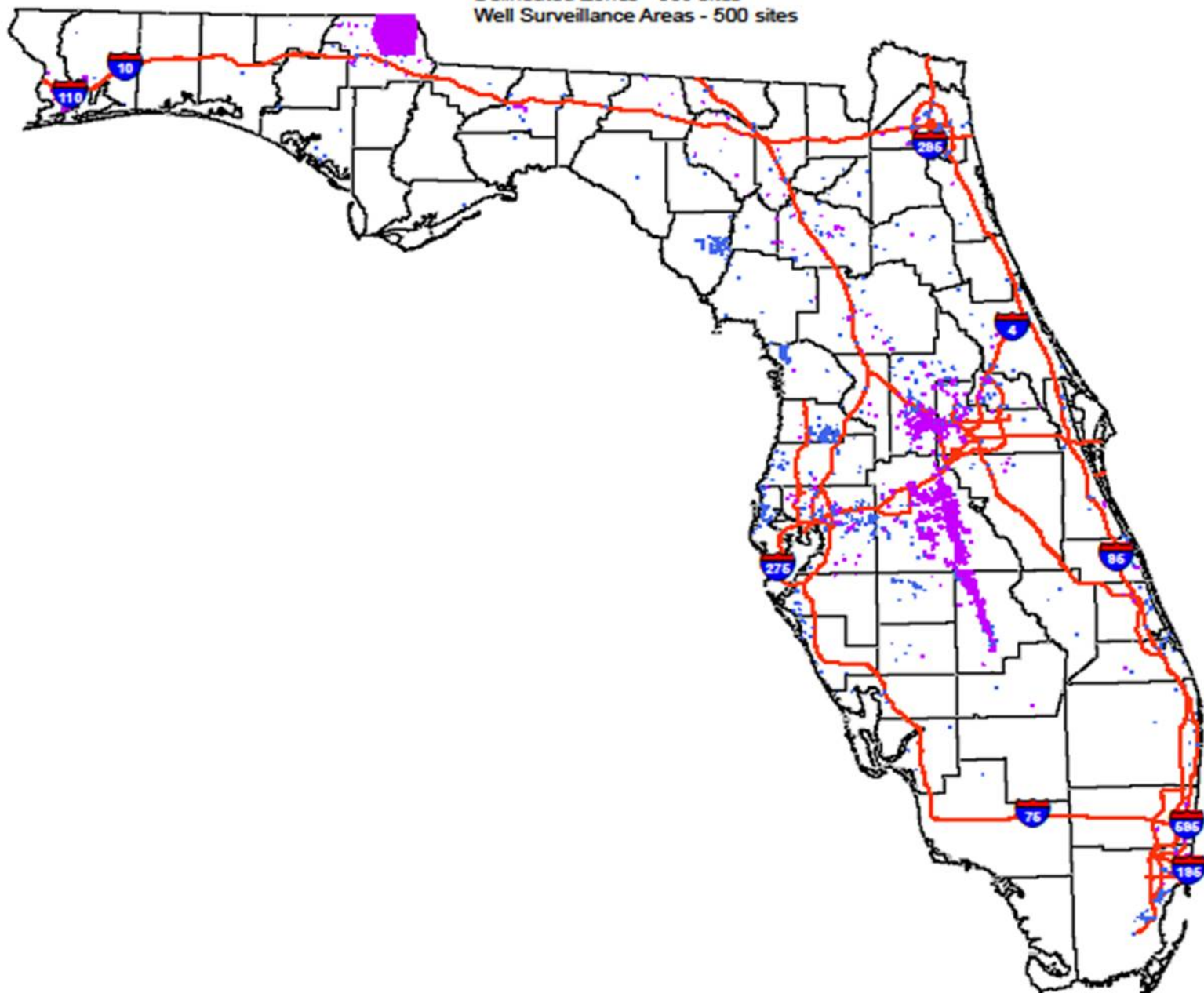


Arsenic
Greater than 10 ug/L





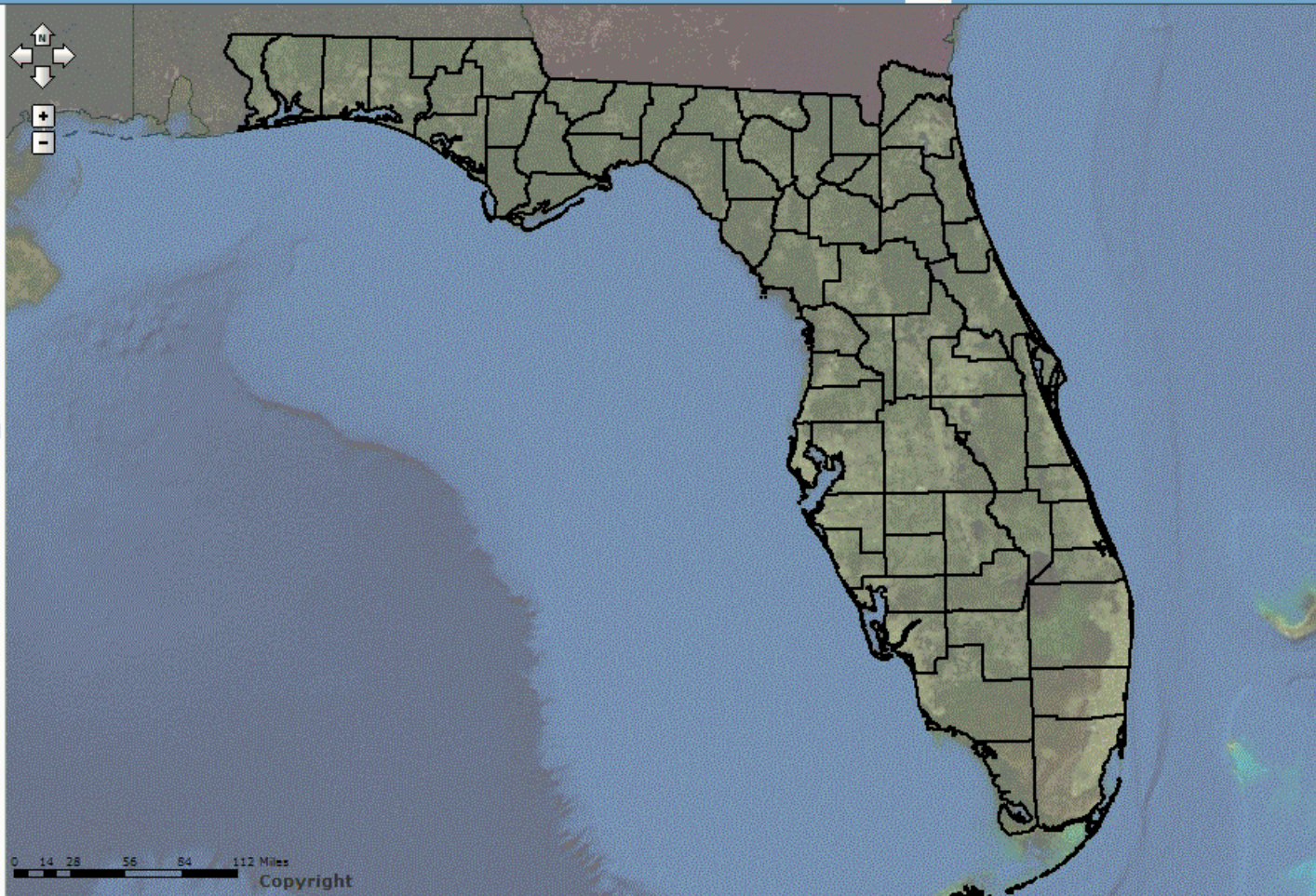
Delineated Zones - 389 sites
Well Surveillance Areas - 500 sites

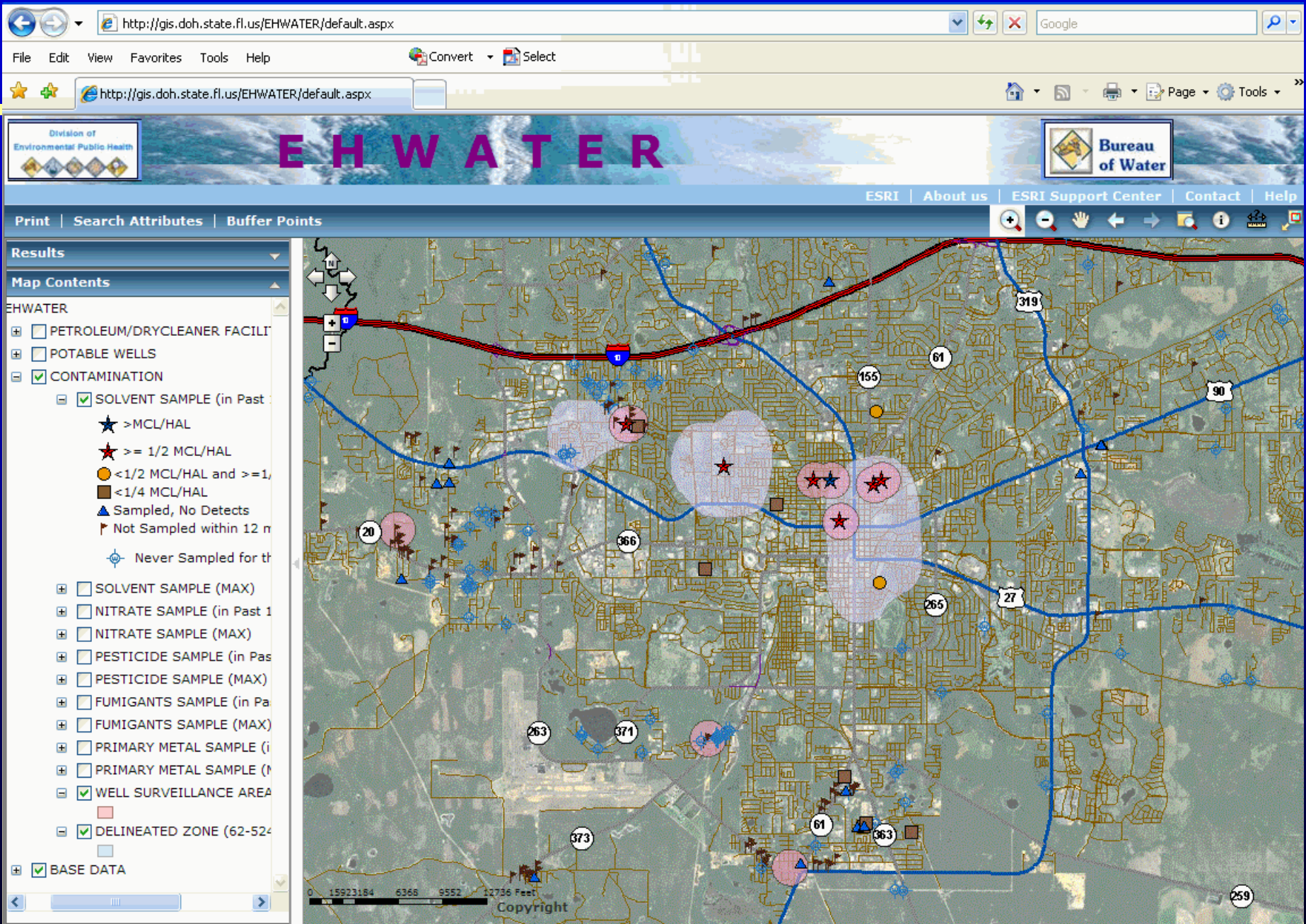


Results

Map Contents

- EHWATER
- ☒ PETROLEUM/DRYCLEANER FACILITIES
 - ☒ Petroleum
 - ☒ DryCleaner
 - ☒ Toxics
 - ☒ POTABLE WELLS
 - ☒ LIMITED USE
 - ☒ WELL LOCATIONS
 - ☒ CONTAMINATION
 - ☒ SOLVENT SAMPLE (in Past 12 M
 - ☒ SOLVENT SAMPLE (MAX)
 - ☒ NITRATE SAMPLE (in Past 12 M
 - ☒ NITRATE SAMPLE (MAX)
 - ☒ PESTICIDE SAMPLE (in Past 12
 - ☒ PESTICIDE SAMPLE (MAX)
 - ☒ FUMIGANTS SAMPLE (in Past 1
 - ☒ FUMIGANTS SAMPLE (MAX)
 - ☒ PRIMARY METAL SAMPLE (in Pa
 - ☒ PRIMARY METAL SAMPLE (MAX)
 - ☒ WELL SURVEILLANCE AREA
 - ☒ DELINEATED ZONE (62-524)
 - ☒ BASE DATA





Questions ?

