

### What's the Quality of My Water?

The City of Fostoria is pleased to share this water quality report with you. It describes to you, the customer, the quality of your drinking water. **This report covers January 1 through December 31, 2017.** The City of Fostoria's drinking water supply strived to comply with the strict regulations of both the State of Ohio and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires all water suppliers to prepare reports like this every year.

In **2017** our water department distributed 770.90 million gallons of water to our customers. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. The City of Fostoria's public water system uses surface water drawn from the East Branch of the Portage River. The system also has three groundwater wells that serve as a back up water source for the city.

Historically, the Fostoria public water system has treated the source water effectively to meet drinking water standards. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the East Branch of the Portage River and the local aquifer. We have a completed Source Water Assessment Plan that shows our susceptibility to contamination as HIGH. Surface waters are by their nature susceptible to contamination, and numerous potential sources along their banks make them more so. The protection areas around the East Branch of the Portage River and the well field include some urbanized areas and contain a moderate number of potential contaminant sources including agricultural run-off, inadequate septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, and road and rail bridge crossings. **If a system is rated highly susceptible, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination.** More detailed information is provided in the City of Fostoria's Source Water Assessment Report, which can be obtained by contacting Ron Fauls, Water Plant Superintendent, by phoning (419) 435-2793, faxing (419)435-2354, or by writing to this address: 213 S. Main Street; Fostoria, OH 44830.

Your water is treated by using disinfection and filtration to remove or reduce harmful contaminants that may come from the source water. The water is treated with a six step process. Chemicals are mixed with the raw water to minimize odor, taste, and organic compounds. Aluminum sulfate is added to coagulate water (solid particles clump together). Then the "clumped" particles are allowed to settle. The water is then filtered to remove particles that did not settle. Water is chlorinated to disinfect. The last treatment process is the addition of fluoride compounds to promote strong and healthy teeth.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Ron Fauls, Water Plant Superintendent, by calling (419) 435-2793, faxing (419) 435-2354, or by writing to this address: 213 S. Main Street; Fostoria, OH 44830. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. You can attend regular City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 213 S. Main Street.

### The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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 minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Fostoria is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **NOTES:**

**(1)** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is (0.3 NTU) in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time.

**(2)** The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Fostoria Water conducted sampling for *bacteria; inorganic; radiological; synthetic organic; volatile organic* during 2017. Samples were collected for a total of *sixty one* different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Fostoria Water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

### **VIOLATION INFORMATION:**

**In 2016 the City of Fostoria mistakenly reported clearwell effluent Combined Radium as >1.0 pCi/L. the actual Combined Radium was 0.95 pCi/L. This is a Reporting Violation. Combined Radium levels in our water are below OEPA standards at all times.**

### **Definitions**

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Action Level (or AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (or TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

90th Percentile: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

NTU (or Nephelometric Turbidity Units): A measure of clarity.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

PPB (or parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).

PPM (or parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/l).

HARA: Highest Annual Rolling Average.

LARA: Lowest Annual Running Average.

HQA: Highest Quarterly Average.

IDSE: Initial Distribution System Evaluation.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

MFL: Millions of fibers per liter.

pCi/L picocuries per liter.