

# **2018 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR THE FORT PAYNE WATER BOARD**

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## **Spanish (Espanol)**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## **WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM**

Fort Payne Water is fortunate to have three source waters to supply drinking water. The primary source is Allen Branch Reservoir located on 67<sup>th</sup> Street directly behind the water treatment facility. Big Wills Creek Reservoir is a secondary source used when the water table is low in the Allen Branch Reservoir. Third, we have a pipeline from the Tennessee River. The pipeline was constructed in 1996 for future demand and to supply water during drought conditions.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESMENT AND AVAILABILITY**

The Source Water Assessment for the Fort Payne Water Board on Allen Branch Reservoir, Big Wills Creek Reservoir, and the Tennessee River is the identification of contaminant sources within a watershed area and the relative susceptibility to these contamination sources. The susceptibility to each contaminant was evaluated and determined jointly with representatives from ADEM, and the Fort Payne Water Works Board. Review of all three sources resulted in a Low Susceptibility Rating. The Source Water Assessment was updated in 2015 and will be updated every 4 years. The public can review this document at the Fort Payne Water Board main office. Copies may be obtained after payment of a reproduction fee.

## **IS MY WATER SAFE?**

The Fort Payne Water Board is proud to notify and report to the public the quality of water we have distributed in the past year. If there are any questions, feel free to contact Paul Nail, Executive Director/General Manager at 256-845-0449 or Brandon Light, Water Plant Manager at 256-845-4661. The Fort Payne Water Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon at 153 20<sup>th</sup> St NE in Fort Payne.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. Examples include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that 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.

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

## **INVOLVING THE PUBLIC**

The involvement the public can have with the Water Board is the conservation of water, calling in leaks, and keeping a close eye on suspicious things going on around your water system.

## **A WORD ABOUT LEAD/COPPER**

If present, elevated levels of lead or copper 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. Fort Payne Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing connections. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead/copper exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead/copper in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. You may call Paul Nail, Executive Director/General Manager at 256-845-0449 or Brandon Light, Water Plant Manager at 256-845-4661. Information on lead/copper in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.