



## Northwestern Water & Sewer District

### 2014 Water Quality Report Fostoria Area

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*Together, the City of Fostoria and the Northwestern Water and Sewer District has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water.*

*The District will notify you immediately if there is any reason for concern about the water.*

*We have a current, unconditional license to operate our water system.*

#### Source of the District's Water

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 backup water source for the city.

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.

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)-426-4791.**

The source of drinking water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or human activity.

#### Contaminants

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.

At risk individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).**

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

A). *Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural*

livestock operations and wildlife.

B). *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.

C). *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

D). *Organic chemicals contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

E). *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**Nitrates** in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm are a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Some people who drink water containing **Trihalomethanes** in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### [Lead in Drinking Water](#)

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 District 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 tap 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, test methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**, <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which 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 which must provide the same protection for public health. It's important to remember that the presence of certain contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.*

### [Source Water Assessment](#)

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 is 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.

### *Turbidity*

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is an indication 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. As reported below, 100% of the City of Fostoria's turbidity results for 2014 met 0.3 ntu limits.

The value reported in the table under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ration between percentage of TOC actually removed and the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements.

### *Public Participation*

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District encourages public interest and participation in our decisions affecting drinking water. The Board of Trustees' meetings are held regularly at 7:30 am every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, at the District's Operations Facility

located at 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green. The public is welcome to attend these meetings and can ask questions or address their concerns if desired. Find out more about the District on the Internet at <http://www.nwwsd.org>.



*City of Fostoria Water Tower*

#### **ADMINISTRATION, CUSTOMER SERVICE AND OPERATIONS:**

**NORTHWESTERN WATER & SEWER DISTRICT  
12560 MIDDLETON PIKE, P.O. BOX 348  
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402  
419.354.9090 OR 1.877.354.9090  
E-MAIL: [district@nwwsd.org](mailto:district@nwwsd.org)**

The following table shows the results of our water-quality analysis. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in the most minute traces, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual source of such contaminants, and a key to the units of measurement. This table does not show the numerous other contaminants we tested for, and did not detect in our water.

2014 Water Quality Data							
NORTHWESTERN WATER & SEWER DISTRICT DATA							
FOSTORIA NORTH							
Lead and Copper							
Contaminant (Units)	Sample Year	90th Percentile	Action Level	# of Samples Over AL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	2014	0.1195	1.3	0 sites over action level	1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	2014	0	15	0 sites over action level	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Contaminant (Units)	Violation Y/N	Sample Year	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes - TTHM (ppb)	No	2014	80	77.3	40.2 - 77.3	No goal for the total	By-product of drinking water Disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	No	2014	60	22.8	13.1 - 22.8	No goal for the total	
Total Chlorine (ppm)	No	2014	MRDL 4.0	1.04	0.88 - 1.04	MRDLG 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
2014 Water Quality Data							
CITY OF FOSTORIA DATA							
Contaminant (Units)	Violation Y/N	Sample Year	MCL	Detected Level	Range of Detections	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	No	2014	TT=0.3	0.20	0.03 – 0.20	NA	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standards)	No	2014	TT	100%	100 %	NA	
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	No	2014	TT	1.67	1.60 - 2.28	NA	Naturally present in the Environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	No	2014	2	0.014	NA	2	Discharges from metal refineries, & of drilling wastes; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	No	2014	4	1.03	0.55 - 1.33	4	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm) (as Nitrogen)	No	2014	10	1.10	<0.10 - 1.10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							

Atrazine (ppb)	No	2014	3	0.13	0.09 - 0.13	3	Runoff from herbicide on Row Crops.
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Chromium-6 (ppb)	No	2014	NA	0.36	0.11 - 0.36	NA	
Molybdenum (ppb)	No	2014	NA	5.7	4.5 - 5.7	NA	
Strontium (ppb)	No	2014	NA	280	220 - 280	NA	
Vanadium (ppb)	No	2014	NA	0.77	0.44 - 0.77	NA	

### Residual Disinfectants

Total Chlorine (ppm)	No	2014	MRDL 4.0	1.34	0.87 - 1.51	MRDLG 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
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Data presented in this table is from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations.

### Key To Table

AL=Action Level	ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter
MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level	ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	TT = Treatment Technique
MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
MRDLG=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	NR = Not regulated
< = A symbol that means less than.	NA = Not Available

## Definitions

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

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level:** The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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:** The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 (MRDLG):** The level of 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 (MRDL):** The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**NTU:** A unit of measure to determine the concentration of particles in the water that affect clarity.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

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

**"<" Symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and that the contaminant in that sample was not detected.