

**2023 Annual Water Quality Report**  
**(Testing Performed January through December 2022)**

**Fort Payne Water Works Board**

PWSID # AL0000509  
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 Fort Payne, AL 35967  
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[www.fortpaynewater.com](http://www.fortpaynewater.com)

The Fort Payne Water Board is proud to report to the public the quality of water we have distributed in the past year. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

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

<b>Water Source</b>	Allen Branch Reservoir and Big Wills Creek Reservoir	
<b>Number of Customers</b>	~ 8,650 service connections (population served ~ 28,825)	
<b>Water Storage</b>	Nine finished water tanks and two raw water tanks	
<b>Treatment Techniques</b>	Disinfection, coagulation, settling, granule-activated carbon filtration Fluoride is added to the finished water to promote dental health	
<b>Interconnections</b>	Northeast Alabama Water District for wholesale if needed	
<b>Water Board</b>	Terry Camp, Chairman	Wade Hill, Member
	Dana Goggans, Vice Chairman	Steve Malcom, Member
	Tony Dobbs, Secretary	
<b>Management Team</b>	Brandon Light, Executive Director	Derrick Templeton, Distribution Manager
	Deanna Frasier, Office Manager	Ezra Dean, Water Plant Manager
	Nick Lea, Assistant Manager	

**Source Water Protection**

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), **The Fort Payne Water Board** has developed a Source Water Assessment plan that will assist in protecting our water sources. This plan provides additional information such as potential sources of contamination. 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 2021 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 for a small reproduction fee.

Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by doing what you can to protect our source water. Please call in any leaks you observe and keep a close eye on any suspicious activities if they occur around your water system. The Fort Payne Water Board is continuously working for our customers to improve the safety of the water. We have also been replacing old infrastructure throughout the system so our customers can rely on having clean water from the water treatment facility straight to the tap.

**Information about Lead**

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. Your water system 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.

Use *only* water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. The two actions recommended above are very important to the health of your family. They will probably be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your house, not from the local water supply. 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 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

## General Information

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 run-off, 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, storm water run-off, 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 prescribes regulations which limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. 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. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

Your source water is tested for pathogens, such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. For people who may be immuno-compromised, a guidance document developed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control is available online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* have not been detected in our finished drinking water.

## Questions?

Fort Payne Water will be able to cover and fix any problems that may arise in all areas of our system. Please contact Fort Payne Water at 256-845-0449 for any billing questions or daytime problems. Fort Payne Water after hours number is 256- 845-7248. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please call our water office or attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. 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.

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

## Monitoring Schedule and Results

Fort Payne Water Works Board *routinely* monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

Constituents Monitored	Date Monitored
Inorganic Contaminants	2022
Lead/Copper	2020
Microbiological Contaminants	current
Nitrates	2022
Radioactive Contaminants	2021
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including herbicides and pesticides)	2020
Volatile Organic Contaminants	2020
Disinfection Byproducts	2022
UCMR4 Contaminants	2018-2020
PFAS Contaminants	2022

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds federal and state requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water.

DETECTED DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS						
Contaminants	Violation Y/N	Levels Detected	Unit Msmt	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	NO	1.60-4.16	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Turbidity	NO	0.084	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Total coliform bacteria	NO	1 *	Present/Absent	0	presence in 5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment; used as an indicator that other bacteria may be present
Barium	NO	0.01	ppm	2	2	Drilling and metal refinery discharge; erosion
Copper	NO	0.399 **	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; wood preservative leaching
Fluoride	NO	0.57	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive for teeth; fertilizer and aluminum factory discharge
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	NO	0.63	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; septic and sewage leaching; erosion
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	LRAA Range 51.3-55.0	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	LRAA Range 14.1-15.2	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>						
Chloroform	NO	32.0	ppb	70	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
Bromodichloromethane	NO	2.10	ppb	0	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>						
Aluminum	NO	0.12	ppm	n/a	0.2	Erosion of natural deposits or as a result of treatment with water additives
Chloride	NO	6.7	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of agricultural runoff
Hardness	NO	122	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives
pH	NO	7.4	S.U.	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of treatment with water additives.
Sodium	NO	3.7	ppm	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sulfate	NO	3.5	ppm	n/a	250	Naturally occurring in the environment; erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	NO	145	ppm	n/a	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or as a result of industrial discharge or agricultural runoff

\* One positive coliform sample occurred in December 2022. All follow up samples were negative for coliform bacteria. This was not a violation.

\*\* Figure shown is 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and # of sites above the Action Level = 0

**UCMR4:** Every five years the EPA issues a new list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by some public water systems (PWSs). The monitoring results may provide a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. The Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) required PWSs serving more than 10,000 people to monitor for 30 unregulated contaminants over a three-year span, 2018 - 2020. The following table shows the UCMR4 contaminants for which we tested and the results of our monitoring.

Unregulated Contaminant Rule 4 (UCMR4) Contaminants					
Contaminants	Unit Msmt	Level Detected	Contaminant	Unit Msmt	Level Detected
Germanium	ppb	ND	Tribufos	ppb	ND
Manganese	ppb	ND	1-butanol	ppb	ND
Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane	ppb	ND	2-methoxyethanol	ppb	ND
Chlorpyrifos	ppb	ND	2-propen-1-ol	ppb	ND
Dimethipin	ppb	ND	Butylated hydroxyanisole	ppb	ND
Ethoprop	ppb	ND	O-toluidine	ppb	ND
Oxyfluorfen	ppb	ND	Quinoline	ppb	ND
Profenofos	ppb	ND	Total organic carbon (TOC)	ppb	ND
Tebuconazole	ppb	ND	Bromide	ppb	ND
Total permethrin (cis- & trans-)	ppb	ND			
Cyanotoxins					
Anatoxin-A	µg/L	ND			
Cylindrospermopsin	µg/L	ND			

**PFAS:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not yet established primary drinking water MCLs for PFAS substances. Below is a list of PFAS contaminants for which our system monitored in 2022 and the results of that monitoring. *PFAS was not detected in our drinking water.*

PFAS CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	Unit Msmt	Level Detected	Contaminant	Unit Msmt	Level Detected
11-chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluoroheptanoic acid	ppb	ND
9-chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanone-1-sulfonic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	ppb	ND
4,8-dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorononanoic acid	ppb	ND
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	ppb	ND
N-ethylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorooctanoic acid	ppb	ND
N-methylperfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluorotridecanoic acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorodecanoic acid	ppb	ND	Perfluoroundecanoic acid	ppb	ND
Perfluorohexanoic acid	ppb	ND	Total PFAS	ppb	ND
Perfluorododecanoic acid	ppb	ND			

For more information on PFAS contaminants, please refer to [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas).

### Reporting Non-compliance 2022

The Fort Payne Water Board incurred a reporting non-compliance during 2022 for failure to report the April – June 2022 PFAS results to ADEM by July 10, 2022. The ADEM Admin. Code states, "the supplier of water shall report to the Department the results of any test, measurement or analysis within the first 10 days following the month in which the result is received or the first 10 days following the end of the required monitoring period as stipulated by the Department, whichever is shortest."

We did monitor for the contaminants during the correct time frame and results were in compliance; however, the results were not reported to ADEM before the 10th day of the month following the sample period. If you have any questions about this non-compliance or your water quality, please call Brandon Light at our office at 256-845-0449.

## Definitions

**Action Level-** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements for a water system.

**ADEM-** Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

**AWPCA-** Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association.

**Coliform Absent (ca)-** Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Disinfection byproducts (DBPs)-** are formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter present in the source water. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite.

**Distribution System Evaluation (DSE)-**a four quarter study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs).

**EPA-** Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Contaminant Level-(mandatory language)** 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-(mandatory language)** 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 (MRDL)-**the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (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.

**Micrograms per liter (ug/L) –** Equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/L) –** Equivalent to parts per million

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr)-**measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)-**a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non-Detects (ND)-** laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)-**one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)-**one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)-**one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

**Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)-**one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)-**picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**RAA–**Running annual average

**Running Annual Average (RAA)-**yearly average of results at each specific sampling site.

**Standard Units (S.U.)-pH** of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases and is affected by temperature and carbon dioxide gas. Water with less than 6.5 could be acidic, soft, and corrosive. A pH greater than 8.5 could indicate that the water is hard.

**Treatment Technique (TT)-** a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Variations & Exemptions (V&E)-**State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

At the end of this report is the *Standard List of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants*, plus some Secondary and Unregulated contaminants for which our water system routinely monitors. These contaminants were *not* detected in your drinking water unless they are listed in the *Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants*.

STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS					
Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Contaminant	MCL	Unit of Msmt
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants</b>			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present/absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0	present/absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calc.organisms/l	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>			Dinoseb	7	ppb
Beta/photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ppq
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Diquat	20	ppb
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endothall	100	ppb
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Endrin	2	ppb
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>			Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
Antimony	6	ppb	Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Arsenic	10	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt
Asbestos	7	MFL	Glyphosate	700	ppb
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor	400	ppt
Beryllium	4	ppb	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt
Cadmium	5	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Lindane	200	ppt
Cyanide	200	ppb	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Polychlorinated biphenyls	0.5	ppb
Mercury	2	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	Picloram	500	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	Simazine	4	ppb
Selenium	.05	ppm	Styrene	100	ppb
Thallium	.002	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>			Toluene	1	ppm
2,4-D	70	ppb	Toxaphene	3	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	50	ppb
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ppm
Benzene	5	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppt	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb
Chlordane	2	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection Byproducts</b>		
Dalapon	200	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	1000	ppb	Chloramines	4	ppm
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (para)	75	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	60	ppb
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	80	ppb
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb			
<b>LIST OF SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Alkalinity, Total (as CA, Co <sub>3</sub> )	Copper	Manganese	Specific Conductance		
Aluminum	Corrosivity	Odor	Sulfate		
Calcium, as Ca	Foaming agents (MBAS)	Nickel	Total Dissolved Solids		
Carbon Dioxide	Hardness	pH	Zinc		
Chloride	Iron	Silver			
Color	Magnesium	Sodium			
<b>LIST OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Aldicarb	Chloroethane	Hexachlorobutadiene	Propachlor		
Aldicarb Sulfone	Chloroform	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	N-Propylbenzene		
Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Chloromethane	Isopropylbenzene	Propachlor		
Aldrin	O-Chlorotoluene	p-Isopropyltoluene	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane		
Bromoacetic Acid	P-Chlorotoluene	M-Dichlorobenzene	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane		
Bromobenzene	Dibromochloromethane	Methomyl	Tetrachloroethene		
Bromochloromethane	Dibromomethane	Methomyl	Trichloroacetic Acid		
Bromodichloromethane	1,1-Dichloroethane	Methylene chloride	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene		
Bromoform	1,3-Dichloropropane	Methyl tert-butyl ether	Trichloroethene		
Bromomethane	2,2-Dichloropropane	Metolachlor	Trichlorofluoromethane		
Butachlor	1,1-Dichloropropene	Metribuzin	1,2,3-Trichloropropane		
N-Butylbenzene	1,3-Dichloropropene	MTBE	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene		
Sec-Butylbenzene	Dicamba	Naphthalene	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene		
Tert - Butylbenzene	Dichlorodifluoromethane	1-Naphthol			
Carbaryl	Dieldrin	Paraquat			