

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is there lead in my water?

Although we regularly test lead levels in your drinking water, it is possible that lead and/or copper levels at your home are higher because of materials used in your plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated levels, run your faucet for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using your water; use only cold water for cooking, drinking or making baby formula; use low lead containing faucets; and when replacing or working on pipes, use lead-free solder. The Putnam Public Service District remains in full compliance with all requirements established for lead in drinking water. For additional information, please contact the National Lead Information Center [800-LEAD-FYI] and the Safe Drinking Water Hotline [800-426-4791].

### How hard is my water?

Hardness is a measure of the concentration of two minerals, calcium and magnesium, naturally present in water. Hardness levels range from 70 to 90 ppm.

### How much sodium is in my water?

The sodium level is approximately 15 ppm.

### What is the pH [acidity] range of my water?

Water in the distribution system averages 7.5 pH units. A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral, neither acidic nor alkaline.

### Is there fluoride in my water?

The Putnam Public Service District adds fluoride to a level of near 1 ppm to assist in the prevention of dental cavities.

## PUTNAM PSD IS AGAIN RECOGNIZED IN 2008 FOR WATER QUALITY

*The hard working employees of Putnam PSD are dedicated to providing the customers the best in service and quality*



### PUTNAM PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM WV3304011

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## Putnam Public Service District 2008 Water Quality Report



## IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

*Putnam Public Service District is dedicated to providing Putnam County with high quality water at reasonable rates with friendly and efficient customer service in order to enhance the quality of life for the county's citizens and business community*

### Inside This Issue

- [Where does my water come from](#)
- [Why is water treated?](#)
- [Water Quality Data](#)

The Putnam Public Service District, in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, is pleased to provide its customers with this annual water quality report. This report explains where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The information in this report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact the District's office at 304-757-6551. If you have comments, suggestions, or further questions, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings, held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the District office located on Poplar Fork Road in Scott Depot next to the Teays Valley Fire Department. The time and date of the meeting are posted in front of the office building.

### Where does my water come from?

Your water source is surface water from the watershed of the Poplar Fork Creek.

### Source Water Assessment Protection

The intake that supplies drinking water to the Putnam PSD has a higher susceptibility to contamination, due to the sensitive nature of surface water supplies and the potential contaminant sources identified within the area. This does not mean that this intake will become contaminated, only that conditions such as the surface water could be impacted by a potential contaminant source. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. The report, which includes some detailed information, is available by calling John Inghram at 757-6721 or WV Bureau for Public Health at 304-558-2981.

### Why must water be treated?

All sources of drinking water contain various amounts and kinds of contaminants. Federal and State regulations establish limits, controls, and treatment practices to minimize these contaminants and to reduce any subsequent health effects.

### Ensuring Water Quality

While sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells, the Putnam Public Service District draws its water from the Poplar Fork watershed [See *Where does my water come from?*]. As water travels over the surface of 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in raw (untreated) water include:

- Microbial—viruses and bacteria from human, agricultural, or wildlife sources
- Inorganic—salts and minerals naturally-occurring or the result of urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming
- Pesticides and herbicides—may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses
- Organic chemical—may come from industrial or domestic processes, petroleum production, and gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems
- Radioactive—can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health providers.



Guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline [1-800-426-4791] or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater). The Federal Drug Administration [FDA] regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water, which must provide protection for public health.

### 2008 TEST RESULTS

To ensure water quality, tests are performed at our water treatment plant and in the distribution system on a daily basis. In order to meet all state and federal regulatory agency requirements, over 500 tests were performed at state certified laboratories in 2008. The preceding Table of Test Results reports detects found in all testing performed.

#### Glossary:

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

**MCL** [Maximum Contaminant Level]: 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 technique.

**MRDLG** [Maximum Residual Detection Legal Goal]: The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect benefits of use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**MRDL** [Maximum Residual Detection Level]: The highest level of disinfectant routinely allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

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

**TT** [Treatment Technique]: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.

**ppm** [parts per million]: One part substance per million parts water, or milligrams per liter.

**NTU** [Nephelometric Turbidity Unit]: Measurement of the clarity or turbidity (cloudiness) of water.

**ppb** [parts per billion]: One part substance per billion parts water, or micrograms per liter.

**pCi/L** [picocuries per liter]: Measurement of the natural rate of disintegration of radioactive contaminants in water (also beta particles).

**NE**: Not Established



TABLE OF TEST RESULTS ~ REGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
CONTAMINANT	PUTNAM PSD		MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
	MEETS STANDARDS?	RESULTS			
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Total Coli form [%]	Yes	ND <sup>ⓐ</sup>	0	5%	Naturally present in the environment.
Turbidity [NTU]	Yes	.083 <sup>ⓐA</sup> 100% <sup>ⓐB</sup>	0	TT	Soil runoff.
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Gross Alpha [pCi/l]	Yes	0.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium - 226 [pCi/l]	Yes	0.1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Fluoride [ppm]	Yes	1.1	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Copper [ppm]	Yes	.33 <sup>ⓐ</sup>	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead [ppb]	Yes	.002 <sup>ⓐ</sup>	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>VOLATLE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) [ppb]	Yes	33 <sup>ⓐ</sup> Range (10-33)	NA	100/80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids [ppb]	Yes	28 Range (16-39)	0	60	By-produce of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine [ppm]	Yes	2.1	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Sodium [ppm]	Yes	14.9	NE		Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate [ppm]	Yes	24.4	250	250	Mineral that occurs naturally in soil.
NOTES: <sup>ⓐ</sup> No detections out of 250 yearly samples was found in 2008. <sup>ⓐA</sup> - Highest turbidity detection for 2008. <sup>ⓐB</sup> - Percent level is the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the 0.3 NTU requirements. <sup>ⓐ</sup> Lead and Copper samples were collected from 30 area residences on August 1,2008. No samples were found to exceed the MCL. The 90th percentile value is shown. <sup>ⓐ</sup> Highest running annual; individual site.					

**ND**: None Detected

**Additional Information**: Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness in water. We monitor it because it is a good measure of the effectiveness of our filtration system