

Remington Pond Recreation Area is a recharge area for the Pleasant Creek Watershed. This area controls sediment from stormwater runoff, filters pollutants, and provides a healthy habitat for fish, plants, and animals.

Help us to protect our water supply by:

- *Fixing leaking automobiles.*
- *Picking up trash*
- *Applying pesticides and herbicides conservatively*
- *Disposing of chemicals properly.*



Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at 315-772-0218 if you have questions.

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Fort Drum Public Works
Fort Drum, New York 13602
Public Water Supply ID #2212214
April 2017

OVERVIEW

Fort Drum is proud to provide you this copy of its 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We publish this report annually to comply with State and Federal regulations and to provide our consumers with detailed information on the water they drink.

In summary, Fort Drum monitors its water for contaminants throughout the year. In 2016, **our water system met all water quality standards**. Included are details about where our water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State and Federal standards.

We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water please contact Thomas W. Ferguson, Chief Operations and Maintenance, at (315) 772-4947 or Diane Covell, Water and Wastewater Program Manager at (315) 772-0218.

HOW DO I KNOW MY WATER IS SAFE?

In general, 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 activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the Environmental Protection Agency prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Similarly, the New York State Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration have established limits for contaminants in bottled water, providing for equal protection of public health.

Fort Drum routinely tests for contaminants that may be present in source water to include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants.



Kayakers on the Black River in Brownville, New York.

FORT DRUM'S WATER SUPPLY

The Fort Drum drinking water system serves approximately 40,000 people. This population constantly fluctuates due to frequent military reassignments. This figure includes both Fort Drum residents and employees living in nearby communities.

Fort Drum obtains its water from two sources: groundwater wells located near the airfield and from the city of Watertown, which draws water from the Black River.

Fort Drum's water plant pumped and treated 93.8 million gallons in 2016. Our highest single day was 737,000 gallons. Fort Drum also purchased 441 million gallons of water from the city. The City of Watertown total plant output for 2016 was 1.95 billion gallons. The daily average was 5.4 million gallons. The highest single day was 7.4 million gallons.

Under a purchase agreement Fort Drum receives approximately 800,000 gallons per day from the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC). DANC purchases water from the City of Watertown and delivers it to Fort Drum through its pumping and piping systems.

The City of Watertown's water source is the Black River, a surface water source, which originates in the Adirondack Mountains and runs through the center of the city and westerly to Black River Bay. During 2016 the system did not experience any water source restrictions. Flows of the Black River are regulated by the Hudson-Black River Regulating District and are controlled by a series of hydro-electric power dams stretching from its headwaters in the Adirondacks to its mouth in Lake Ontario.

The City of Watertown's 15 million gallon per day Water Treatment Plant utilizes 2.3% of the minimum flow of the Black River. The water is treated within modern facilities prior to distribution. Liquid alum and a nonionic polymer are added to the water to coagulate and settle out dirt and organic matter through a dosing station upstream of the water plant. The settled water is then pumped to the process complex at 1707 Huntington Street. Poly-aluminum chloride and nonionic or cationic polymer are added prior to filtering. Carbon may be added to combat taste and odor.

The filtered water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms. The water is then treated with sodium silicate for corrosion control and with fluoride to help fight tooth decay. The finished product, high quality potable water, is pumped to the city's distribution system and through the DANC line to Fort Drum.

Fort Drum's groundwater source consists of ten drilled groundwater wells located to the east of the cantonment area. All wells were shut down in 2006 as a precautionary measure following discovery of a JP-8 fuel release at the Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield.

Based on a well field assessment and concurrence from New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) six ground water wells were returned to service in December 2008. Three were taken out of service in 2010. The remaining wells were shut down in March 2016 as a precautionary measure following detection of very low levels of perfluorinated chemicals. Five new groundwater wells were approved for operation in August 2016.

Water pumped to the Fort Drum water treatment plant is first disinfected with ultraviolet (UV) light and then chlorine. Fluoride is added. We then pump this treated water into the distribution system where it mixes with water from Watertown.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The NYSDOH evaluated the City of Watertown's PWS's (Public Water Supply's) susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). The City of Watertown's water supply is most susceptible to sediment, turbidity, bacteria, *Cryptosporidium* oocysts, *Giardia* cysts and permitted discharges within the watershed. During 2016 Black River source water samples were positive for both *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

Fort Drum's groundwater supply wells are most susceptible to inorganic contaminants from runway deicing, and volatile organics from fuel spills.

Both City of Watertown & Fort Drum provide regular monitoring and treatment to ensure drinking water meets all applicable standards.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN FORT DRUM'S DRINKING WATER?

Fort Drum and the City of Watertown routinely monitor and test your drinking water for contaminants. These contaminants include; coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead, copper, organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, Gross Alpha, Radium 226 and 228 and synthetic organic compounds. Both tested List 1 contaminants under EPA's unregulated contaminant monitoring rule 3 (UCMR3). Watertown also tested list 2, which includes pharmaceutical hormones. Results with detections are shown on pages 8 through 14.

Table 1 shows the contaminants that Fort Drum detected in its water supply as compared to Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). **Table 2** shows Fort Drum's detections of contaminants for which there is presently no MCL. The Environmental Protection Agency has asked water suppliers to monitor these substances to determine if additional regulation of them is needed. **Table 3** shows contaminants detected by the City of Watertown, to include substances with and without MCLs.

New York State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently; therefore, some of the data may be more than one year old.

Please note that all drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 (800-426-4791) or the NYSDOH District Office at (315) 785-2277.

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.

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

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

Nanograms per liter (ng/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Not Applicable (NA): Limits do not apply

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

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

Milligrams per liter (mg/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/L): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Table 1: Fort Drum Table of Detected Contaminants						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date Mon/Year	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT,AL)	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform ¹	No	2016	Zero positive coliform samples	MCL=>5% of all samples positive	% of positive coliform	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	No	2016	0.05 (0.03-0.13)	TT=<5NTU	NTU	Particles from water mains
Fluoride	No	2016	0.83 (0.8-1.0)	MCL=2.2	mg/L (ppm)	Added to prevent tooth decay
Copper ²	No	10 2016	0.061 (ND-0187)	AL= 1.3	mg/L (ppm)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead ²	No	10 2016	1.23 (ND-3.21)	AL=15	ug/L (ppb)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate	No	2,8,11 2016	0.59 (0.14 - 1.14)	MCL=10	mg/L (ppm)	Natural deposits or fertilizer
Total Trihalome- thanes ³	No	2,5,8,11 2016	79.2 (6.5 - 93.8)	MCL=80	ug/L (ppb)	Byproducts of drinking water chlo- rination
Haloacetic Acid ³	No	2,5,8,11 2016	54.4 (1.3 - 90.4)	MCL=60	ug/L (ppb)	Byproducts of drinking water chlo- rination

1. Coliform: Zero positive coliforms were detected out of 40 monthly compliance samples collected.

2. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 sites tested. All 30 samples were less than the action level. One half of our drinking water comes from the City of Watertown. High lead levels reported by the City of Watertown are attributed to household plumbing which will not affect Fort Drum water.

3. This level represents the highest locational running annual average of all the sites sampled and the range of all samples collected.

Table 2: Fort Drum Table of Detected Contaminants: Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Program Rule ⁴						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date Mon/ Year	Level Detect- ed Avg/Max (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL,TT,AL)	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Chromium	No	3,6 2015	0.1 (ND-0.3)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Hexavalent Chromium	No	3,6 2015	0.16 (0.08-0.29)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Strontium	No	3,6 2015	596 (47-1700)	HRL	1500 ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Vanadium	No	3,6 2015	0.04 (ND-0.2)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Chlorate	No	3,6 2015	13 (ND-38)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Byproduct of disinfection process
Perfluoro heptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	No	2 2016	20	NA	ng/L (ppt)	Manmade compound
Perfluorohex- ane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	No	2 2016	60	NA	ng/L (ppt)	Manmade compound
Perfluoroc- tanoic Acid (PFOA)	No	2 2016	30	NA	ng/L (ppt)	Manmade compound

4. All detectable unregulated contaminant results are listed. Most unregulated contaminants do not have a MCL and are being monitored to determine future regulations. EPA issued a non-cancer health reportable level (HRL) of 1500 ug/L for Strontium 10/2014. EPA issued a health advisory (HA) for the combined total concentration of PFOA and PFOS of 70 ppt May 2016. Fort Drum drinking water is well below all health advisories. You may obtain all the monitoring results by calling Diane Covell at (315)-772-0218.

Table 3: City of Watertown Table of Detected Contaminants						
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Sample Date Mon/Year	Level Detected Avg/Max (Range)	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL)	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Contamina- tion
Total Coliform ¹	No	7 2016	1 positive sample	MCL=>5% of all samples pos- itive	NA	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity Distribution ²	No	6 2016	0.39 (0.16 - 0.39)	TT=<5NTU	NTU	Particles from water mains
Turbidity ^{2a} Composite Filter Ef- fluent	No	5 2016	0.21 (0.06 - 0.21)	TT=95% of samples <0.3 NTU	NTU	Particles too fine to filter completely
Fluoride	No	2016	0.71 (0.45 - 0.93)	MCL=2.2	mg/L (ppm)	Added to prevent tooth decay
Copper ³	No	2016	0.20 (0.013 - 0.32)	AL=1.3	mg/L (ppm)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead ³	Yes	2016	16 (ND - 400)	AL=15	ug/L (ppb)	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate	No	7 2015	0.68	MCL=10	mg/L (ppm)	Natural deposits or fertilizer
Di (2ethylhexyl) phthalate	No	7 2015	1.0	MCL=6	ug/L (ppb)	Leaching of plastics
Total Organic Carbon Raw Water	No	2016	4.5 (3.4 - 7.7)	TT	mg/L (ppm)	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon Filtered Water	No	2016	1.9 (1.2 - 2.9)	TT	mg/L (ppm)	Naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes ⁴	No	2016	69.8 (17.3 - 122.4)	MCL=80	ug/L (ppb)	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acid ⁴	No	2016	54.4 (26.0 - 78.0)	NCL=60	ug/L (ppb)	Byproducts of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated Contaminate Monitoring Rule 3⁵

Hexavalent Chromium	No	2,5,8,11 2014	0.04 (ND-0.102)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Strontium	No	2,5,8,11 2014	71.49 (45.0-120.4)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Vanadium	No	2,5,8,11 2014	0.44 (ND-0.78)	NA	ug/L (ppb)	Naturally occurring
Androstene	No	2,5,8,11 2014	0.35 (ND-0.64)	NA	ng/L (ppt)	Naturally produced hormone
Testosterone	No	2,5,8,11 2014	0.1 (ND-0.25)	NA	ng/L (ppt)	Naturally produced hormone

City of Watertown Table Footnotes:

1. *Coliform:* One in over 480 routine samples taken during 2016 was found to contain total coliform (sample was taken during May 2016). Coliform are naturally occurring bacteria that are used as an indicator of the possibility that potentially harmful bacteria could be present. Subsequent samples taken following the positive total coliform were negative. Less than 5% of our monthly samples were positive for total coliform, therefore there are no reportable violations.
2. *Turbidity* is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. Our highest average distribution turbidity measurement for the year was 0.48 and occurred in June 2016. State regulations require that the monthly average turbidity must always be below 5 NTU.
- 2a. *The regulations require that 95% of the combined filter effluent turbidity levels recorded have measurements below 0.3 NTU. The maximum combined filter effluent recorded at the plant in 2016 was 0.19 NTU and occurred in August 2016. 100% of the combined filter effluent turbidities were below the MCL.*
3. *The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 sites tested.*
4. *This level represents the highest locational running annual average of all the sites sampled and range of all collected samples..*
5. *All detectable unregulated contaminate results are listed and their presence does not indicate a health concern. Unregulated contaminants do not have a MCL and are being monitored to determine future regulations. You may obtain all the monitoring results by calling Aaron Harvill at (315)-785-7845.*

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN? Fort Drum had no violations. Some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

Lead: Table 1, shows that lead was detected at levels well below New York State Action Levels. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. Fort Drum Public Works 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).

Biofilm: Testing and control program has been in place since May 1996. Biofilm is a non-hazardous bacteria that can grow on the inside of storage tanks and transmission lines. Increased bacteriological monitoring consists of weekly coliform and heterotrophic plate counts at eight locations in the distribution system (32 samples/month). Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Fort Drum monitors residual chlorine, in our water storage tanks, and distribution system and flushes unidirectionally to control biofilm formation.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS MONITORING

RULE (UCMR) Contaminant monitoring provides EPA with valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water. EPA can estimate the number of people potentially being exposed and provide an estimate of the levels of exposure. This data set is one of the primary sources of occurrence and exposure information the EPA uses to develop regulatory decisions for contaminants of concern. In 2016, we were required to collect and analyze drinking water samples for the following unregulated contaminants: (Total and Hexavalent Chromium, Cobalt, Molybdenum, Strontium, Vanadium, Chlorate, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,3-butadiene, bromochloromethane, bromomethane, chlorodifluoromethane, chloromethane, 1-4-dioxane, and perfluorinated compounds. All results greater than the method detection limits are included in Table 2 Fort Drum Table of Detected Contaminates. For more information please contact Diane Covell at 315-772-0218 or diane.h.covell.civ@mail.mil

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their healthcare provider about their drinking water:

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the NYSDOH requires that we monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis.

Our New York State target for Fluoride is 0.7 mg/L. During 2016, continuous and distribution system monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water in the optimal range 100% of the time. None of the fluoride monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2016 our system was in compliance with **ALL** New York State and Federal drinking water standard operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements. Fort Drum's water is safe to drink.



Indian River at Carr Road on Fort Drum

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Fort Drum 2016 improvements include revitalization of the water distribution system with high density polyethylene piping.

In-line analytical monitors have made analysis of organics more accurate, precise, and timely. Contaminants, if present, can be detected rapidly, allowing Fort Drum to better protect its users.

In February 2016, Fort Drum sampled its drinking water production wells and detected low levels of perfluorinated compounds. Though these levels were well below EPA provisional health advisory levels, Fort Drum chose to purchase all of its water from the City of Watertown and shut down its wells the end of March 2016. This was done as a precautionary measure until the source of contaminants can be better delineated and NYSDOH and EPA can issue definitive health advisory levels. In August 2016 Fort Drum obtained approval to operate groundwater wells distant from the wells that were closed.

Other planned 2017 improvements include replacement of old piping with new HDPE piping, upgrading process control equipment. Ongoing major projects include finding additional sources of drinking water to support the installation.

HELP SAVE WATER— AND MONEY!

Although our system has adequate water to meet present and future demands, water conservation remains important. Using less water reduces both energy consumption and maintenance costs. Should there be a drought, Fort Drum will be better positioned to meet essential needs.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include loading dishwashers fully, turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, showering more quickly, watering plants only when needed, and checking the faucets in your home for leaks.



Don't buy bottled water. Save money and reduce solid waste by bringing a bottle with you!