



**NORTHERN KENTUCKY WATER DISTRICT CELEBRATES SOURCE WATER PROTECTION WEEK  
September 29 – October 5**

ERLANGER, Ky. (October 2, 2024) – The Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) is celebrating Source Water Protection Week and is raising awareness about the importance of caring for drinking water resources, including the Ohio and Licking Rivers.

“Water quality begins at the source, and as a public utility, our vested interest is in a safe, clean and reliable water supply,” said NKWD President/CEO Lindsey Rehtin. “The Ohio River is our main source water and is vital in providing our 300,000 customers with water.”

In 2023, NKWD produced over 9.74 billion gallons of finished drinking water, with almost 95% coming from the Ohio River. The Licking River provides additional source water for NKWD.

“We are proud to partner with organizations like the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) that work towards improving and protecting the Ohio River and the interstate waters of the Ohio River Basin,” noted Rehtin. “They take the lead on protecting the river which allows us to focus on drinking water. Without their efforts to prevent pollution, our organization would be facing greater challenges for cleaner waterways.”

ORSANCO is an interstate compact agency representing 8 states and the federal government, authorized to operate water quality programs for the Ohio River and its tributaries. ORSANCO scientists evaluate water quality throughout the Ohio River Basin to ensure the Ohio River can be used for drinking water, industrial supply, and recreation, as well as supporting a healthy aquatic habitat.

"The Ohio River gives us an abundant source of drinking water, thriving ecosystems, a rich history, shared culture, and ample opportunities for recreation and investments in the local economy," said ORSANCO Executive Director Richard Harrison. "For over 75 years, ORSANCO has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the health of one of our nation's most vital water resources. We set an example of how to preserve and protect this great natural resource flowing through our backyards that not only provides drinking water for over 5 million people, but also serves as a cornerstone for commerce, recreation, and aquatic habitat."

The Safe Drinking Water Act, which is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, not only sets standards for tap water but also mandates protection of source water in the environment. This ensures cleaner rivers, lakes and aquifers, ultimately leading to safer drinking water for everyone. Learn more about source water protection plans on ORSANCO’s website: <https://www.orsanco.org/programs/source-water-protection/>.

Both NKWD and ORSANCO encourage you to protect and preserve water sources to safeguard this crucial resource for our community.