

indicator - **1.** In biology, any biological entity or processes, or community whose characteristics show the presence of specific environmental conditions. **2.** In chemistry, a substance that shows a visible change, usually of color, at a desired point in a chemical reaction. **3.** A device that indicates the result of a measurement; e.g. a pressure gauge or a moveable scale.

interflow - Water which infiltrates the land surface and flows into a stream but never recharges the local water table.

isotropy - The condition in which the properties of interest (generally hydraulic properties of the aquifer) are the same in all directions.

lacustrine - Relating to processes occurring in a lake.

lag time - The time between the middle of the precipitation event in a watershed (or catchment) and the arrival of the flood peak at a given location.

lagoon - Shallow body of water, often separated from the sea by coral reefs or sandbars.

lead (Pb) - A heavy metal that is hazardous to health if breathed or swallowed. Its use in gasoline, paints, and plumbing compounds has been sharply restricted or eliminated by federal laws and regulations.

lithology - Mineralogy, grain size, texture, and other physical properties of granular soil, sediment, or rock.

lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) - The lowest level of a stressor that causes statistically and biologically significant differences in test samples as compared to other samples subjected to no stressor.

managerial controls - Methods of nonpoint source pollution control based on decisions about managing agricultural wastes or application times or rates for agrochemicals.

marine water - Water in the ocean (or sea) or groundwater which has recently been part of an ocean (or sea) and which retains the essential chemistry of the ocean water.

maximum contaminant level (MCL) - The designation given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to water-quality standards promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The MCL is the greatest amount of a contaminant that can be present in drinking water without causing a risk to human health.

mechanical dispersion - Process whereby solutes are mechanically mixed during advective transport, caused by the velocity variations at the microscopic level; synonymous with hydraulic dispersion.

mercury (Hg) - Heavy metal that can accumulate in the environment and is highly toxic if breathed or swallowed. (See: heavy metals.)

methyl orange alkalinity - A measure of the total alkalinity in a water sample in which the color of methyl orange reflects the change in level.

microbial growth - The amplification or multiplication of microorganisms such as bacteria, algae, diatoms, plankton, and fungi.

mitigation - Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

monitoring - Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements and/or pollutant levels in various media or in humans, plants, and animals.

municipal discharge - Discharge of effluent from waste water treatment plants which receive waste water from households, commercial establishments, and industries in the coastal drainage basin. Combined sewer/separate storm overflows are included in this category.

national estuary program - A program established under the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 to develop and implement conservation and management plans for protecting estuaries and restoring and maintaining their chemical, physical, and biological integrity, as well as controlling point and nonpoint pollution sources.

new source - Any stationary source built or modified after publication of final or proposed regulations that prescribe a given standard of performance.

nitrate - A compound containing nitrogen that can exist in the atmosphere or as a dissolved gas in water and which can have harmful effects on humans and animals.

nitrioltriacetic acid (NTA) - A compound now replacing phosphates in detergents.

nitrogenous wastes - Animal or vegetable residues that contain significant amounts of nitrogen.

non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) - Contaminants that remain undiluted as the original bulk liquid in the subsurface, e.g. spilled oil. (See: free product.)

non-point source (NPS) pollution - Pollution discharged over a wide land area, not from one specific location. Non-point source pollution is contamination that occurs when rainwater, snowmelt, or irrigation washes off plowed fields, city streets, or suburban backyards. As this runoff moves across the land surface, it picks up soil particles and pollutants, such as nutrients, and pesticides.

non-potable - Water that is unsafe or unpalatable to drink because it contains pollutants, contaminants, minerals, or infective agents.

nutrient pollution - Contamination of water resources by excessive inputs of nutrients. In surface waters, excess algal production is a major concern.

odor threshold - The minimum odor of a water or air sample that can just be detected after successive dilutions with odorless water.

oligotrophic lakes - Deep clear lakes with few nutrients, little organic matter and a high dissolved-oxygen level.

outfall - The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges; the outlet or structure through which reclaimed water or treated effluent is finally discharged to a receiving water body.

overland flow - The flow of water over the land surface created by direct precipitation. Also called Horton overland flow.

oxygen demand - The need for molecular oxygen to meet the needs of biological and chemical processes in water.

oxidation - The chemical addition of oxygen to break down pollutants or organic waste; e.g., destruction of chemicals such as cyanides, phenols, and organic sulfur compounds in sewage by bacterial and chemical means.

oxidation pond - A man-made (anthropogenic) body of water in which waste is consumed by bacteria, used most frequently with other waste-treatment processes; a sewage lagoon.

pH - A measure of the relative acidity or alkalinity of water. Water with a pH of 7 is neutral; lower pH levels indicate increasing acidity (H⁺), while pH levels higher than 7 indicate increasingly basic (OH⁻) solutions.