

spring melt/thaw - The process whereby warm temperatures melt winter snow and ice. Because various forms of acid deposition may have been stored in the frozen water, the melt can result in abnormally large amounts of acidity entering streams and rivers, sometimes causing fish kills.

storm sewer - A system of pipes (separate from sanitary sewers) that carries water runoff from buildings and land surfaces.

stream - A flowing body of water which is generally confined to a specific channel or channels.

- **effluent stream** - A stream which is receiving baseflow.
- **ephemeral stream** - A stream which flows only briefly after rainfall events.
- **gaining stream** - A stream which increases in discharge along its channel because of groundwater inflow.
- **influent stream** - A stream with its water flowing into the groundwater system.
- **intermittent stream** - A stream which typically does not flow all year long.
- **losing stream** - A stream which loses discharge along its channel.
- **perennial stream** - A stream which flows all year long.
- **sinking stream** - A stream which loses discharge because its water is infiltrating into the ground.

submerged aquatic vegetation - Vegetation that lives at or below the water surface; an important habitat for young fish and other aquatic organisms.

subwatershed - Topographic perimeter of the catchment area of a stream tributary.

Superfund - The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA and SARA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities.

surface runoff - Precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions; a major transporter of non-point source pollutants in rivers, streams, and lakes.

surface water - All water naturally open to the atmosphere (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, impoundments, seas, estuaries, etc.)

surface-water treatment rule - Rule that specifies maximum contaminant level goals for *Giardia lamblia*, viruses, and *Legionella* and

promulgates filtration and disinfection requirements for public water systems using surface-water or ground-water sources under the direct influence of surface water. The regulations also specify water quality, treatment, and watershed protection criteria under which filtration may be avoided.

suspended loads - Specific sediment particles maintained in the water column by turbulence and carried with the flow of water.

suspended solids (SS) - Small particles of solid pollutants that float on the surface of, or are suspended in, sewage or other liquids. They resist removal by conventional means.

SVOC - Semivolatile organic chemicals, such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons, PCBs, etc.

tail water - The runoff of irrigation water from the lower end of an irrigated field.

tertiary wastewater treatment - Removal of residual suspended solids (after secondary treatment), usually by granular medium filtration or microscreens. Disinfection is also typically a part of tertiary treatment. Nutrient removal is often included in this definition.

total dissolved phosphorous - The total phosphorous content of all material that will pass through a filter, which is determined as orthophosphate without prior digestion or hydrolysis. Also called soluble P. or ortho P.

total dissolved solids (TDS) - All material that passes the standard glass river filter; now called total filterable residue. Term is used to reflect salinity.

total suspended solids (TSS) - A measure of the suspended solids in wastewater, effluent, or water bodies, determined by tests for "total suspended non-filterable solids."

toxic chemical - Any chemical listed in EPA rules as "Toxic Chemicals Subject to Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986."

toxic pollutants - Materials that cause death, disease, or birth defects in organisms that ingest or absorb them. The quantities and exposures necessary to cause these effects can vary widely.

toxicity - The degree to which a substance or mixture of substances can harm humans or animals.

toxicological profile - An examination, summary, and interpretation of a hazardous substance to determine levels of exposure and associated health effects.

transport - The movement of solute, suspended matter, or heat in a porous medium, in a surface stream, or through the atmosphere.

treatment - **1.** Any method, technique, or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, effluents, and air emissions. **2.** Methods used to change the biological character or composition of any regulated medical waste so as to substantially reduce or eliminate its potential for causing disease.

turbidity - A measure of water cloudiness caused by suspended solids.

VOC - Volatile organic chemical, such as benzene, gasoline, etc.

wastewater - The spent or used water from a home, community, farm, or industry that contains dissolved or suspended matter.

water quality--a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and *biological* characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

wetland - Areas under or contiguous to open water or with a shallow water table. Wetlands are characterized by water-loving vegetation (phreatophytes or, in areas with brackish water, halophytes).

units to convert	units converting to	formula for conversion
inch (in)	millimeter (mm)	# in x 25.4 = # mm
foot (ft)	mm	# ft x 304.8 = # mm
mile (mi)	kilometer (km)	# mi x 1.609344 = # km
acre-foot (acf)	gallon (gal)	# acf x 325,851 = # gal
cubic-foot (ft ³)	acre-foot (acf)	# acf x .000023 = # ft ³
pound (lb)	gram (g)	# lb x 453.59 = # g
degree Fahrenheit (°F)	degree Celsius (°C)	°F x 5/9 = °C
part-per-billion (ppb)	microgram-per-liter (µg/L)	# ppb = # µg/L
part-per-million (ppm)	milligram-per-liter (mg/L)	# ppm = # mg/L
gallon (gal)	liter (L)	# gal x 3.79 = # L
microgram (µg)	gram (g)	# µg x 10 ⁻⁶ = # g