
GLOSSARY

accretion

The gradual addition of new land to old by deposition of sediment carried by the water of a stream.

activity

See *radioactivity*.

adsorption

The adhesion (attachment) of a substance to the surface of a solid or solid particles.

aggregate

Any of several hard, inert materials such as sand or gravel used for mixing with a cementing material to form concrete, mortar, or plaster.

air dispersion coefficients

Parameters that represent the dispersion of air pollutants with respect to distance from the source.

air quality

A measure of the levels of *constituents* in the air; they may or may not be pollutants.

air quality standards

The prescribed level of *constituents* in the outside air (*ambient air*) that should not be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified area. (See *criteria pollutant*.)

air sampling

The collection and analysis of air samples for the purpose of measuring pollutants.

alluvial

Deposited by a stream or running water.

ambient air

The surrounding *atmosphere*, usually the outside air, as it exists around people, plants, and structures. It is not the air closest to emission sources.

anaerobic

Environments that are lacking molecular or dissolved oxygen.

annulus

The space between the two walls of a double-wall tank.

anoxia

Depletion of oxygen.

aqueous

Made from, with, or by water.

aquifer

A geologic formation that contains enough saturated, porous material to permit movement of groundwater and to yield groundwater to wells and springs.

atmosphere

The layer of air surrounding the Earth.

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)

A five-member commission established after World War II to supervise the use of *nuclear energy*. The AEC was dissolved in 1975 and its functions transferred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), which later became the Department of Energy (DOE).

background exposure

See *exposure to radiation*.

background radiation

Normal radiation present in the lower *atmosphere* from cosmic rays and earth sources. Background radiation varies considerably with location depending on elevation above sea level and *natural radioactivity* present in the earth or building materials such as granite.

baseline

Assessment of existing conditions before the addition of pollutants.

benthic

Associated with the bottom of a body of water or living in the bottom sediments, as in "benthic organism."

benthic macroinvertebrate

An animal that lives in or on the bottom, that is visible to the naked eye, and has no vertebral column (backbone), such as the aquatic larvae of insects (mayflies and caddisflies) and adult mollusks (clams and mussels).

benthic region

The bottom of a body of water. This region supports the benthos, a type of life that not only lives on but contributes to the character of the bottom of the body of water.

biodiversity

The variety of organisms which inhabit a particular area.

biological dose

The radiation *dose*, measured in *rem*, absorbed in biological material.

biota

The plant and animal life of a region.

blackwater stream

A stream containing dark-colored water due to high levels of tannic and/or humic acid from leaf litter and detritus.

blending credit

The amount of dilution expected when wastewater is discharged into a water source such as a river or stream.

bottomland

Lowland formed by *alluvial* deposit along a stream or in a lake basin.

bottomland hardwood forest

Forested wetlands containing a predominance of hardwood species such as oak, hickory, sweetgum, tulip poplar, bald cypress, and blackgum found adjacent to streams and rivers in the southeastern United States.

°C

Degree *Celsius*. $^{\circ}\text{C} = \frac{5}{9} \times (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$.

cancer

A malignant tumor of potentially unlimited growth, capable of invading surrounding tissue or spreading to other parts of the body.

carcinogen

An agent capable of producing or inducing *cancer*.

carcinogenic

Capable of producing or inducing *cancer*.

Carolina Bay

Shallow depressional wetland area found on the southeastern Atlantic Coastal Plain.

catchment basin

A basin to catch drainage or *runoff*.

categorical exclusion

A *NEPA* term as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as an action that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human *environment*.

Category 2 species

Plant or animal species for which there is some evidence of vulnerability, but for which presently there is not enough data to support listing as threatened or endangered.

celsius

Of or relating to a temperature scale that registers the freezing point of water as 0°C and the boiling point as 100°C under normal atmospheric pressure.

Citizens Advisory Board

A formally chartered group of local private citizens who provide DOE with a consensus of public opinion on SRS issues.

collective dose

The sum of the individual *doses* to all members of a specific population.

collocated

To place together in proper order.

committed dose equivalent

The *dose equivalent* calculated to be received by a tissue or organ over a 50-year period after the intake of a radionuclide into the body.

committed effective dose equivalent

The sum of the *committed dose equivalents* to various tissues in the body.

concentration

The quantity of a substance contained in a unit quantity of a medium (e.g., micrograms of aluminum per liter of water).

condensate

Liquid water obtained by cooling the steam produced in an evaporator system.

confidence level

The certainty of a particular point (measurement, amount, value) being within a statistically determined range.

confining unit

A geologic *strata* which, because of its position and its impermeability or low *permeability* relative to the *aquifer*, gives the water in the *aquifer* artesian *head*.

confluence

The point where two streams meet.

constituents

Parts or components of a chemical system.

cooling water

Water which is pumped into a *nuclear reactor* to cool components and prevent damage from the intense heat generated when the reactor is operating.

corrective measures study

An evaluation of various remedial alternatives.

criteria pollutant

Air pollutants for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established *concentration* standards; *concentrations* below the standards do not pose a threat to public health and welfare.

cross section

A profile portraying an interpretation of a vertical section of the earth explored by geophysical or geologic methods.

cumulative effects

Additive environmental, health, or socioeconomic effects that result from a number of similar activities in an area.

curie (Ci)

A unit of measure of *radioactivity* equal to 37,000,000,000 decays per second. A curie is also a quantity of any nuclide or mixture of nuclides having one curie of *radioactivity*.

deactivation

To cease operation.

decay, radioactive

The spontaneous transformation of one nuclide into a different nuclide or into a different energy state of the same nuclide. The process results in the emission of *nuclear radiation* (alpha, beta, gamma, or neutron radiation).

decisionmaker

Group or individual whose responsibility is to make a decision concerning the future of the River Water System.

delta

A deposit of sediment, usually triangular in shape, at the mouth of a river, stream, or tidal inlet.

de minimus

Maximum plant-wide air emission of the toxic chemical that will not require further modeling review.

dose

The energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation. The unit of absorbed dose is the *rad*, equal to 0.01 joules per kilogram of irradiated material in any medium.

dose conversion factor

Factor used to calculate the *cancer* risk for a radiation *dose*.

dose equivalent

A term used to express the amount of effective radiation when modifying factors have been considered. It is the product of absorbed *dose* (*rads*) multiplied by a quality factor and other modifying factors. It is measured in *rem* (*Roentgen* equivalent man). (See *effective dose equivalent*.)

dose rate

The radiation *dose* delivered per unit time (e.g., *rem* per year).

drawdown (1)

The height difference between the water level in a formation and the water level in a well caused by the withdrawal of ground water.

drawdown (2)

To reduce the water level in a lake.

dry layup

Layup condition where the pipe distribution system is allowed to drain. No effort is made to pump low points dry, and inspections of distribution piping would continue.

ecology

The study of the relationships between living things and their *environments*.

ecosystem

The community of living things and the physical *environment* in which they live.

ecotone

TC | The transitional area between two ecological communities (e.g., between a grassland and a forest).

effective dose equivalent

A quantity used to estimate the biological effect of ionizing radiation. It is the sum over all body tissues of the product of absorbed *dose*, the quality factor (to account for the different penetrating abilities of the various types of radiation), and the tissue weighting factor (to account for the different radiosensitivities of the various tissues of the body).

effluent

A liquid discharged into the *environment*, usually into surface streams. In this *EIS*, effluent refers to discharged wastes that are nonpolluting in their natural state or as a result of treatment.

effluent standards

Defined limits of waste discharge in terms of volume, content of contaminants, temperature, etc.

EIS

Environmental impact statement; a legal document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, for Federal actions involving significant or potentially significant environmental impacts.

embankment

A ridge of earth or stone to prevent water from passing beyond a desirable limit.

emission standards

Legally enforceable limits on the quantities and kinds of air contaminants that may be emitted to the *atmosphere*.

endangered species

Plant or animal species that are threatened with extinction.

environment

The sum of all external conditions and influences affecting the life, development, and ultimately, the survival of an organism.

environmental justice

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and educational levels with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of the negative environmental impacts of *pollution* or environmental hazards due to a lack of political or economic strength.

environmental restoration

To restore an area to the natural state which existed before it was degraded by human activity.

environmental transport

The movement through the *environment* of a substance, including the physical, chemical, and biological interactions undergone by the substance.

epilimnion

The upper, warmer layer of a stratified lake.

TC
L12-06

erosion

The process in which actions of wind or water carry away soil.

euphotic zone

The upper layer of a body of water that is penetrated by sunlight, this includes the *littoral* and *limnetic zones*.

eutrophic

A water body which has become enriched with excessive amounts of plant nutrients (such as nitrates and phosphates) and is characterized by excessive growth of aquatic plants.

exceedance

A value over a prescribed limit.

exposure to radiation

The incidence of radiation on living or inanimate material by accident or intent. *Background exposure* is the exposure to natural background ionizing radiation. Occupational exposure is the exposure to ionizing radiation that occurs during a person's working hours. Population exposure is the exposure to a number of persons who inhabit an area.

external radiation

Being exposed to radiation from sources outside your body.

°F

Degree Fahrenheit. $^{\circ}\text{F} = ^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5} + 32$.

facies

A group of rocks that differ from surrounding rocks.

facultative (wetland species)

Taking place under some conditions but not others.

fall line

An imaginary line drawn through the falls (or rapids) of successive rivers and roughly defining the area where streams pass from the harder rocks of the *Piedmont* to the softer rocks of the Coastal Plain.

fallout

The descent to earth and deposition on the ground of particulate matter (which is usually radioactive) from the *atmosphere*.

fault

A break in the Earth's crust along which movement has occurred.

fauna

Animals.

feasibility study

A detailed technical, economic, and legal review of a specific proposed project at a particular location. A feasibility study outlines all potential costs, benefits, and problems.

fiscal year

Period of one year used to calculate financial data. As defined by the Federal government, this *EIS* uses a fiscal year which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.

floodplain

The relatively smooth valley floors adjacent to and formed by rivers subject to overflow.

flora

Plants.

fluvial

Relating to or living in, or near a river.

fold

A bend in geologic *strata*.

full pool

The highest water level reached in a lake without overflow of the *embankments*.

gamma rays

High-energy, short-wavelength electromagnetic radiation accompanying fission, radioactive decay, or nuclear reactions. Gamma rays are very penetrating and require relatively thick *shields* to absorb the rays effectively.

genus/genera

A group of structurally or phylogenetically related species.

geology

The science that deals with the Earth: the materials, processes, *environments*, and history of the planet, especially the lithosphere, including the rocks and their formation and structure.

groundwater

The supply of fresh water in an *aquifer* under the Earth's surface.

groundwater percolation

The gravity flow of water through pores in underlying rock or soil into *groundwater*.

half-life (radiological)

The time in which half the atoms of a radioactive substance disintegrate to another nuclear form. Half-lives vary from millionths of a second to billions of years.

hazard index

The sum of more than one *hazard quotient* for multiple substances and/or multiple exposure pathways. The hazard index is calculated separately for chronic, subchronic, and shorter-duration exposures.

hazard quotient

The ratio of a single substance exposure level over a specified period of time (e.g., subchronic) to a reference *dose* for that substance derived from a similar exposure period.

head

As related to water wells, the pressure of a fluid upon a unit area due to the height at which the surface of the fluid stands above the point at which the pressure is determined.

headwaters

The source and upstream waters of a river or stream.

hydraulic conductivity

The ability of water to move through an *aquifer*, also the ratio of the flow velocity to driving force for viscous flow under saturated conditions of *groundwater*.

hydraulic gradient

As applied to an *aquifer* it is the rate of change of pressure *head* per unit of distance of flow at a given point and in a given direction.

hydrogeologic

Pertaining to the rocks which bear water in the subsurface.

hydrostratigraphy

Names used to identify the water-bearing properties of rocks.

hypolimnion

The lower, cooler water layer found in stratified lakes.

impoundment

An enclosed reservoir of water.

incision depth

Depth that a river or creek has cut down into the earth's surface.

infrastructure

Items that were once important parts of the processes with which SRS accomplished its missions.

inhibited water

Water treated with chemicals to retard or halt corrosion, especially of metals.

in situ

In the original location.

institutional controls

Actions that limit human activities at or near facilities where hazardous and/or radioactive wastes exist. They may include land and resource use restrictions, well drilling prohibitions, building permit restrictions, and other types of restrictions.

Integrator Operable Units

Contaminated stream systems on the SRS that are also classed as RCRA/CERCLA units. IOUs have multiple contamination in their *watersheds*.

interim status

The period of operation for facilities that require RCRA permits until the permitting process is complete.

internal radiation

Being exposed to radioactive materials inside the body.

isotope

An atom of a chemical element with a specific atomic number and atomic mass. Isotopes of the same element have the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons. Isotopes are identified by the name of the element and the total number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus. For example, plutonium-239 is a plutonium atom with 239 protons and neutrons.

jockey pump

A small, efficient pump used in place of larger pumps to maintain the River Water System.

lacustrine

Pertaining to, formed in or produced by a lake or lakes.

latent cancer fatalities

Deaths resulting from *cancer* that has become active following a period of inactivity.

layup

To maintain portions of the River Water System in a predetermined state of readiness, retaining the capability for restart in a timeframe that varies inversely with the state of readiness.

limnetic zone

The open-water zone of a lake or reservoir to the depth of light penetration.

littoral zone

The shallow-water zone of a pond, lake, or reservoir where light penetrates to the bottom. Typically occupied by rooted plants in natural (undisturbed) systems, but not as a rule in managed systems, such as flood-control *impoundments*.

lotic

Pertaining to flowing water.

low-income communities

A community in which 25 percent or more of the population is identified as living in poverty.

lower limit of detection

The smallest *concentration*/amount of the component being measured that can be reliably detected in a sample at a 95 percent *confidence level*.

macrophyte

An aquatic vascular plant.

maximally exposed individual

A hypothetical member of the public assumed to receive the highest calculated *dose*.

mesotrophic

Describes a body of water with a moderate nutrient content (compares to *eutrophic* and *oligotrophic*).

metalimnion

In a stratified lake, the transitional zone between the *hypolimnion* and the epilimnion where the change in temperature with depth is the most rapid. Also referred to as the "thermocline."

micron

A micrometer (10^{-6} meters).

migration

The natural travel of a material through the air, soil, or *groundwater*.

Miocene

Fourth of the five epochs of the Tertiary period (more recent than Eocene).

mobility

The ability of a chemical element or a pollutant to move into and through the *environment*.

morbidity risk

The frequency with which exposed individuals would contract both fatal and non-fatal *cancers*.

mortality risk

The frequency with which exposed individuals die from induced *cancer*.

mothball

To place and maintain facilities in a condition practical to restart, conducting only those activities necessary for routine maintenance or to protect human health and the *environment*.

natural radiation or natural radioactivity

Background radiation. Some elements are naturally radioactive, whereas others are induced to become radioactive by bombardment in a reactor or accelerator.

natural recharge

To fill and maintain a water body from the natural flow of sources such as streams, springs, or rivers; as opposed to pumping water from one of these sources.

NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; it requires the preparation of an *EIS* for Federal projects that could present significant impacts to human health or the *environment*.

nonprocess water

At SRS, *potable* water.

NRC

Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the independent Federal commission that licenses and regulates commercial nuclear facilities.

nuclear energy

The energy liberated by a *nuclear reactor* (fission or fusion) or by radioactive decay.

nuclear power plant

A facility that converts *nuclear energy* into electrical power. Heat produced by a reactor is used to make steam to drive a turbine which drives an electric generator.

nuclear radiation

Radiation, usually alpha, beta, gamma, or neutron, which emanates from an unstable atomic nucleus.

nuclear reactor

A device in which a fission chain reaction is maintained and which is used for irradiation of materials or the generation of electricity.

nutrient loading

The amount of plant nutrients (such as nitrates or phosphates) released into a receiving stream, either from human or natural sources.

offsite population

In this *EIS*, all individuals located within an 80-kilometer (50-mile) radius of SRS.

oligotrophic

Describes a body of water with a low nutrient content (compares to *eutrophic* and *mesotrophic*).

operable units

CERCLA defined area being investigated for environmental remediation.

organic compounds

Chemical compounds containing carbon and usually hydrogen and/or oxygen.

outcrop

Place where *groundwater* is discharged to the surface. Springs, swamps, and beds of streams and rivers are outcrops of the water table.

outfall

Place where liquid *effluents* enter the *environment* and may be monitored.

Paleozoic

First of two eras of geologic time, the other being the Mesozoic.

particulates

Solid particles small enough to become airborne.

people of color communities

A population that is classified by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as Black, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, or other nonwhite persons, the composition of which is at least equal to or greater than the state minority average of a defined area or jurisdiction.

percent attainment

Percent of the time a facility is available for operations.

perched

A water-bearing area of small lateral dimensions lying above a more extensive *aquifer*.

periphyton

Organisms, such as attached algae, that live on rocks, submerged logs, stems and leaves of aquatic plants, and other substrates in aquatic habitats.

permeability

Ability of rock, soil, or other substance to transmit a fluid.

person-rem

The radiation *dose* to a given population; the sum of the individual *doses* received by a population segment.

pH

A measure of the hydrogen ion *concentration* in *aqueous* solution. Pure water has a pH of 7, acidic solutions have a pH less than 7, and basic solutions have a pH greater than 7.

photosynthesis

A process in green plants during which light energy is converted to chemical energy. During this process, oxygen is released.

physiographic

Regions classified based on their physical geographic and geologic setting.

Piedmont

Geographic region of the Appalachians that is characterized by plains formed by the coalescing of *alluvial* fans.

plankton

Minute organisms in ponds, lakes, and reservoirs that float with the currents, and whose movements and distribution are largely determined by currents. Phytoplankton are floating plants (e.g., algae); zooplankton are floating animals (e.g., microscopic crustaceans).

plume

The elongated pattern of contaminated air or water originating at a point source, such as a smokestack or a hazardous waste disposal site.

pollution

The addition of any undesirable agent to an *ecosystem* in excess of the rate at which natural processes can degrade, assimilate, or disperse it.

porosity

The ratio of the total void space in rock or soil to its total volume.

postulated accident

An accident that is forwarded as having occurred to produce the described effects.

potable

Drinkable; for domestic use.

potentiometric map

A representation of the subsurface with contours, showing the elevations to which water would rise by hydrostatic pressure.

privatization

The transfer of government operations to the private sector. This is a long-term goal for many of the operations at SRS.

process well/water

At SRS, water used within a system or process and not used as *potable* water.

pro-deltaic

In reference to rocks or sediments deposited at sea in advance of the river *delta*.

production well/water

At SRS, water treated and used as *potable* water.

rad

Radiation absorbed *dose*; the basic unit of absorbed *dose* equal to the absorption of 0.01 joules per kilogram of absorbing material.

radiation shielding

Reduction of radiation by interposing a shield of absorbing material between a radioactive source and a person.

radioactivity

The spontaneous decay of unstable atomic nuclei, accompanied by the emission of radiation.

radioisotopes

Radioactive *isotopes*. Some radioisotopes are naturally occurring (e.g., potassium-40), while others are produced by nuclear reactions.

receiving waters

Rivers, lakes, oceans, or other bodies of water into which treated or untreated waste waters are discharged.

recharge

Process by which water is absorbed to or added to the subsurface water supply or to the streams of the area.

Record of Decision (ROD)

A document that provides a concise public record of DOE's decision on a proposed action for which an *EIS* was prepared. A ROD identifies the alternatives considered in reaching the decision, the environmentally preferable alternative(s), factors balanced by DOE in making the decision, whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and if not, why they were not.

redox potential

An expression of the oxidizing or reducing potential of water from a particular source; this serves as an indicator of the state or form in which chemicals will occur. For example, reduced iron is soluble in water while oxidized iron precipitates as iron oxide (rust). Therefore, redox conditions can alter the environmental *mobility* and other properties of some chemicals.

rem (Roentgen equivalent man)

The unit of *dose* for biological absorption. It is equal to the product of the absorbed *dose* in *rads* and a quality factor and a distribution factor.

remedial investigation

A detailed technical study of the type and extent of contamination at a particular site, including alternatives for cleanup.

riparian

Pertaining to the banks of a body of water.

risk

In accident analysis, a measure of the impact of an accident considering the probability of the accident occurring and the consequences if it does occur (risk = probability \times consequences).

risk assessment

An analytical study of the probability and magnitude of harm associated with a physical or chemical agent, activity, or occurrence. A risk assessment defines the *risk* posed to human health and/or the *environment* by the presence of certain pollutants.

risk-based analysis

See *risk assessment*.

runoff

The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across the ground surface and eventually is returned to water bodies. Runoff can carry pollutants or harmless chemical constituents into *receiving waters*.

scrub-shrub wetlands

Wetland areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall, including shrubs, young trees, and trees and shrubs that are small or stunted due to environmental conditions.

sedimentation

The settling of excess soil and mineral solids of small particle size (silt) contained in water.

seepage basin

An excavation that receives wastewater. Insoluble materials settle out on the floor of the basin and soluble materials seep with the water through the soil column where they are removed partially by *ion exchange* with the soil. Construction may include dikes to prevent overflow or surface *runoff*.

semivolatiles

Organic substances that partially evaporate at normal temperatures and pressures.

seston

TC | The tiny plants and animals (i.e., plankton) and the nonliving particulate matter floating in a body of water.

shield

Material used to reduce the intensity of radiation that would irradiate personnel or equipment.

silt

Sediments with particle sizes between sand and clay.

siltation

The act of depositing sediment, as by a river.

slope factor

Radionuclide-specific lifetime average *cancer* incidence *risk* factors per unit intake or exposure usually expressed in picocuries for inhalation and ingestion pathways and picocuries per gram for direct exposure from contaminated soil.

solvent

A substance, usually liquid, that can dissolve other substances.

stakeholder

Any person or organization with an interest in or affected by DOE activities. Stakeholders may include representatives from Federal agencies, State agencies, Congress, Native American Tribes, unions, educational groups, industry, environmental groups, other groups, and members of the general public.

standby (cold standby)

Facility is maintained in a protected condition to prevent deterioration such that it can be brought back into operation.

strata

A series of individual sedimentary beds or layers.

- stratigraphy
Branch of geologic science concerned with the description, organization, and classification of layered rock units and associated non-layered rock units.
- substratum
In reference to the layer of soil directly below the top soil.
- Superfund
A trust fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act that finances long-term remedial action for hazardous waste sites.
- surface water
All the water on the Earth's surface (streams, ponds, etc.), as distinguished from *groundwater*, which is below the surface.
- surficial deposit
Most recent geological deposit lying on bedrock or on or near the earth's surface.
- terrain
Area of ground considered as to its extent and natural features in relation to its use in a particular operation.
- thermal stratification
Well-defined horizontal water temperature zones in a lake or pond.
- topography
The general configuration of a surface including its relief. This term may apply to a land or water-bottom surface.
- toxicity
The quality or degree of being poisonous or harmful to plant or animal life.
- transmissivity
The ability of *aquifer* to transmit water through the vertical plane of an *aquifer*.
- Triassic
The early (i.e., oldest) of three periods of geologic time within the Mesozoic Era.
- turbidity
The degree to which water is muddied or clouded by suspended sediments.
- vadose zone
The volume of rock and soil that is above the saturated zone.
- volatile organic compounds
An *organic compound* with a vapor pressure greater than 0.44 pounds per square inch at standard temperature and pressure.

volatilized

Caused to pass off as a vapor.

waste acceptance criteria

Criteria put forth by a waste management facility which defines the waste it will accept.

waste certification criteria

Criteria that must be met for transport, treatment, and disposal of waste.

waste minimization

Reduction of waste before treatment, storage, or disposal by source reduction or recycling activities.

water quality standard

Provisions of state or Federal law that consist of a designated use or uses for the waters of the United States and water quality standards for such waters based upon those uses. Water quality standards are used to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water, and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act.

watershed

The area drained by a given stream.

wind rose

A map showing the direction and magnitude of the wind.