

ERB Acronym and Glossary – U

Acronym	Term	Definition
U	data qualifiers - organic analysis - U	Indicates compound was analyzed for but not detected. The sample quantitation limit must be corrected for dilution and for percent moisture.
UBST	Underground Bulk Storage Tank	Underground tanks whose total capacity is 20,000 gallons or greater.
UCL	Upper Confidence Level	A tool for acknowledging uncertainties and variability within an environmental data set without presenting an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.
UEL	Upper Explosive Limit	The highest concentration (expressed in percent of vapor in the air by volume) of a substance that will burn or explode when an ignition source is present.
UF	Uncertainty Factor	In toxicity assessments, a number that reflects the degree of uncertainty that must be considered when the available data are extrapolated to humans.
UFL	Upper Flammability Limit	The highest concentration (expressed in percent of vapor in the air by volume) of a substance that will burn or explode when an ignition source is present.
UIC	Underground Injection Control	The program under the Safe Drinking Water Act that regulates the use of wells to pump fluids into the ground.
UIC	Unit Identification Code	A six-character, alphanumeric code that uniquely identifies each Active, Reserve, and National Guard unit of the Armed Forces.
ULEV	Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle	The Environmental Protection Agency and California Air Resources Board have developed vehicle emission standards for reducing hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and oxides of nitrogen.
UMTRCA	Uranium Tailings Radiation Control Act	A program of assessment and remedial action at inactive mill tailings sites and regulates mill tailings during uranium or thorium ore processing at active mill operations.
USC	United States Code	The codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. It is divided by broad subjects into 50 titles.
USCG	US Coast Guard	A military, multimission, maritime service. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests in any maritime region as required to support national security.
USCS	Unified Soil Classification System	Classification system based on identifying soils according to their textural and plasticity qualities and on their grouping with respect to behavior.
USDA	US Department of Agriculture	Provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency	Established in 1970 by Executive Order, bringing together parts of various government agencies involved with control of pollution.
USFS	US Forest Service (of USDA)	An agency of the Department of Agriculture established to manage public lands in national forests and grasslands.
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service (of DOI)	One of the Bureaus of the Department of Interior, its mission is to conserve, protect and enhance fish,

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		wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of America.
USGS	United States Geological Survey	Created by an act of Congress in 1879, is the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. Provides information to resolve natural resource problems.
USNPS	US National Park Service	One of the Bureaus of the Department of Interior, it is responsible for protecting its national parks and monuments.
UST	Underground Storage Tank	All tanks and attached piping containing regulated substances in which 10% or more of the tank volume (including piping) is beneath the surface of the ground.
UV	Ultraviolet	Pertaining to a band of electromagnetic radiation having wavelengths shorter than violet light.
UV Rays	Ultraviolet Rays	Radiation from the sun that can be useful or potentially harmful. UV rays from one part of the spectrum (UV-A) enhance plant life and are useful in some medical and dental procedures; UV rays from other parts of the spectrum (UV-B) can cause skin cancer or other tissue damage. The ozone layer in the atmosphere partly shields us from ultraviolet rays reaching the earth's surface.
UXO	unexploded ordnance	Unexploded Ordnance or UXO is where a weapon with any type of explosive contained within it or it's shell has not been detonated and is left behind is considered a UXO. These may range from hand gun ammunition to unexploded artillery shells.
UZ	Unsaturated Zone	The portion of the subsurface above the ground water table. It contains, at least some of the time, air as well as water in the pores.

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	ultraviolet chemical oxidation	A water treatment approach in which contaminants are destroyed by combining chemical oxidation with irradiation using ultraviolet rays.
	unconfined aquifer	An aquifer containing water that is not under pressure; the water level in a well is the same as the water table outside the well.
	unconsolidated	Sediment that is loosely arranged or unstratified, or whose particles are not cemented together.
	uncontaminated property	Real property on which no hazardous substances and no petroleum products or their derivatives, including aviation fuel and motor oil, were stored for one year or more, known to have been released, or disposed of.
	Underground Sources of Drinking Water	Aquifers currently being used as a source of drinking water or those capable of supplying a public water system. They have a total dissolved solids content of 10,000 mg/l or less, and are not "Exempted Aquifers." See Exempted Aquifer.

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	unresolved complex mixture	The portion of a gas chromatogram that consists of a significant "hump" containing hundreds of compounds that cannot be individually resolved by conventional gas chromatography; typical of weathered petroleum.
	unsaturated (vadose) zone	The zone of geologic material that occurs above the water table and capillary fringe, in which the pores are only partially filled with water (soil moisture is less than porosity), and the fluid pressure is less than atmospheric.
	urban runoff	A mixture of debris in water - dust, dirt, particulate matter, soot, solid wastes - that is transported to rivers or coastal waters and sediments via nonpoint (surface runoff) and point (end-of-pipe) sources.