

ERB Acronym and Glossary – S

Acronym	Glossary	Definition
S	data qualifiers - metals analysis - S	The reported value was determined by the Method of Standard Additions.
S	data qualifiers - organic analysis - S	Estimated due to surrogate outliers.
S	Storage Coefficient	A measure of the volume of water contained in an aquifer, related to porosity and aquifer thickness. Expressed as an absolute value normally from 0.00001 to 0.002 for confined aquifers and from 0.02 to 0.35 for water table aquifers.
S	Sulfur	A pale-yellow, non-metallic chemical element used in vulcanizing rubber and in making matches, paper, gunpowder, insecticides, sulfuric acid, etc.
s	value of drawdown	The effect of removing water from a reservoir or aquifer.
S/S	Stabilization/Solidification	A process that chemically absorbs and physically immobilizes contaminant materials in soil.
SA	Surface Area of exposed skin, cm ² /event	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health variable for modeling dermal exposure to contaminants in soil.
SAB	Science Advisory Board	A group of external scientists who advise EPA on science and policy.
SACM	Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model	EPA model which streamlines the traditional Superfund response process through administrative changes.
SAP	Sampling Analysis Plan	Provides a process for obtaining sampling data of sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy data needs.
SAR	Small Arms Range	Designated land or water area set aside, managed, and used to conduct research on develop, test, and evaluate weapons systems discharging bullets of 50 caliber or less.
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986	In addition to certain free-standing provisions of law, it includes amendments to CERCLA, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and the Internal Revenue Code. Among the free-standing provisions of law is Title III of SARA, also known as the "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986," and Title IV of SARA, also known as the "Radon Gas Indoor Air Quality Research Act of 1986." Title V of SARA amending the Internal Revenue Code is also known as the "Superfund Revenue Act of 1986."
SAVE tm	Spray Aeration Vacuum Extraction	Technology developed by Remediation Service International, used to treat groundwater contaminated with dissolved volatile organic compounds.
SB	Soil Boring	An auger is used to drill into ground and obtain soil samples at various depths below the land surface.
SC	Site Characterization	Used to determine if Remedial Investigation is need . Typically consists of two parts: a records search to identify potential areas of concern, and a field investigation to inspect and sample those areas.
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition	A system of instruments (e.g., flow meters, transducers, thermocouplers) that are operated and/or monitored by a computerized system for control of a remedial process.
SCAPS	Site Characterization and	A field screening method that uses fluorescence to

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	Analysis Penetrometer System	detect petroleum hydrocarbon compounds through a probe pushed into the ground.
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	A device worn to provide breathable air in a hostile environment.
scfm	standard cubic feet per minute	Unit of measurement used for gaseous volume flow rate, generally used for air.
SCO	Site Closeout	The final step for IR sites. SC is reached when no further response actions under the IRP are appropriate or anticipated and the regulatory agencies concur. For NPL sites, this step will include following the proper procedure for deletion from the NPL according to the NCP (40 CFR 300.425). Actual SC is the date that the deletion appears in the Federal Register. It is only under unusual circumstances that a site that has been closed out will be reopened.
SCS	Soil Conservation Service	Under the Department of Agriculture, SCS has a long-term working relationship with the agricultural community and has proven ability to provide interdisciplinary technical assistance.
SD	Standard Deviation	The square root of the variance of a set of values. A statistic used as a measure of dispersion, or separation, in a distribution of values. Small standard deviations represent closer values and smaller distribution of those values.
SDI	Subchronic Daily Intake	Exposure expressed as mass of a substance contacted per unit body weight per unit time, averaged over a lifetime.
SDL	Sample Detection Limit	A Sample Detection Limit (SDL) is defined as the Method Detection Limit (MDL) multiplied by the dilution factor required to analyze the sample, and corrected for moisture or sample size.
SDTS	Spatial Data Transfer Standards	A comprehensive transfer standard for Earth-referenced data which may be used to transfer all types of spatial data between dissimilar computer systems.
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act	Established to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. This law focuses on all waters actually or potentially designed for drinking use, whether from above ground or underground.
Se	Selenium	A gray, nonmetallic chemical element of the sulfur group, existing in many forms, used in photoelectric devices.
SEAM	Superfund Exposure Assessment Manual	Guidance for assessing contaminant release, environmental fate and transport, and human exposure to contaminants emanating from hazardous waste sites.
SEAR	Surfactant-Enhanced Aquifer Remediation	Partnership formed to conduct research, development, and field scale application of surfactant-based technologies which address subsurface contamination by non-aqueous phase liquids.
SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy	The individual who is responsible for, and has the authority to conduct, all the affairs of the Department of the Navy.
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope	Microscopes that use a beam of highly energetic electrons to examine objects on a very fine scale. (10,000x plus magnification)

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SEM:AVS	Simultaneously Extractable Metal:Acid Volatile Sulfide	Method of extracting metal and sulfide from the sediment at the same time. The ratio of metals to sulfides gives a good estimate of bioavailability.
SERDP	Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program	The DoD's corporate environmental research and development program, planned and executed in full partnership with other Federal and non-Federal organizations.
SET	Solvated Electron Treatment	A mixture of anhydrous ammonia and sodium metal creates solvated electrons. These free electrons produce a strong reducing agent that removes halogens and reduces other contaminants.
SET tm	Solvated Electron Technology	Patented non-thermal process for soil remediation that uses sodium or calcium generated solvated electrons as a reducing agent.
SF	Slope Factor	A plausible upper-bound estimate of the probability of a response per unit intake of a chemical over a lifetime. The slope factor is used to estimate an upper-bound probability of an individual developing cancer as a result of a lifetime of exposure to a particular level of a potential carcinogen.
sf/day	square feet/day	Unit of measurement used used to express area per unit time. For instance, this can be used to express how fast a surface is painted, coated, applied or how fast a field is irrigated.
SI	Site Inspection	An on-site investigation to determine whether there is a release or potential release and the nature of the associated threats. The SI consists of limited sampling and analysis designed to verify the findings of the Preliminary Assessment. The data collected must also support the decision to continue to the RI/FS phase or remove the site from further investigation.
SIMA	Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity	U.S. Navy Command that provides intermediate level maintenance support and selective maintenance training to surface ships, submarines, and other shore activities.
SITE	Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation	EPA program to promote development and use of innovative treatment technologies in Superfund site cleanups.
SMP	Site Management Plan	Used as a tool for planning, reviewing, and setting priorities within the Installation Restoration Program. It provides the chronological history, schedules of activities, and current status of each site.
SNARL	Suggested No Adverse Response Level	Expressed in milligrams of contaminant per liter, is the highest exposure level in drinking water where adverse (noncarcinogenic) health effects would not be expected.
SNDL	Standard Navy Distribution List	Standard Navy Distribution List
SO2	Sulfur Dioxide	A pungent, colorless, gaseous pollutant formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels.
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement	An international agreement between a foreign nation and the U. S. defining responsibilities of each signee regarding environmental responsibilities at the host activity.
Soil Washing	Soil Washing	Soil washing is a treatment technology that uses liquids (usually water, sometimes combined with chemical additives) and a mechanical process to removes

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		hazardous contaminants from soil.
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure	A detailed written description of how a laboratory executes a particular procedure or method. It is intended to standardize the performance of the procedure.
SOW	Scope of Work	Describes the elements and work that must be performed.
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan	A contingency plan covering the release of hazardous substances as defined in the Clean Water Act. The SPCC identifies emergency control measures, points of contact, the chain of command, and individual responsibilities within the plan.
SPCC	System Performance Check Compounds	Target compounds designated to monitor chromatographic performance, sensitivity, and compound instability or degradation on active sites.
SpG	Specific Gravity	The mass of a material as compared with the mass of an equal volume of reference material. Water is the reference material for liquids and solids, while air is the reference material for gases. Specific gravity is dimensionless. If the specific gravity is less than one, the material is lighter than water or gas and will float or rise. If the specific gravity is greater than one, the material is heavier than water or gas and will sink or fall.
SQL	Sample Quantitation Limit	The quantity of a substance that can be reasonably quantified given the limits of detection for the methods of analysis and sample characteristics that may affect quantitation.
SR	Specific Retention	The amount of water that will not drain from a unit amount of material by gravity and remains attached to the solids or the material.
sROD	Streamlined ROD	A new innovation in Record of Decision (ROD) documentation, a flexible streamlined Record of Decision (sROD) contains the critical elements needed to document that the selected remedy complies with CERCLA & NCP. The sROD consists of a ROD document and a Reference CD.
SS	Specific Storage Coefficient	The volume of water which a unit volume of an aquifer releases from storage or adds to it per unit decline or rise in the average head within the unit volume of the aquifer.
SSI	Screening Site Inspection	Conducted to support the Hazardous Ranking System and hazard ranking numbers assigned to the site.
SSL	Soil Screening Level	EPA methodology to calculate risk-based, site-specific levels for contaminants in soil that may be used to identify areas needing further investigation at National Priority List sites.
SSO	Site Safety Officer	The Site Safety officer (SSO) will coordinate with the Safety Officers of all responding HazMat teams and will ensure compatibility of all of the various site safety plans with the overall site safety plan.
SSP	Site Safety Plan	A crucial element in all response actions, it includes information on equipment being used, precautions to be taken, and steps to take in the event of an on-site emergency.
SSTL	Site Specific Target Level	Part of a Risk-Based Corrective Action approach

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		designed to develop risk-based clean-up standards.
STEL	Short Term Exposure Limit	The concentration to which workers can be exposed continuously for a short period of time without suffering from: irritation, chronic or irreversible tissue damage, or narcosis.
STORET	USEPA's Computer System for the Storage and Retrieval of Water Quality Data	A repository for water quality, biological, and physical data.
STP	Site Treatment Plans	Plan for developing treatment technologies and capabilities required by the Federal Facilities Compliance Act.
SV	Sampling Visit	An optional step in the RCRA facility Assessment process, it is usually in the facilities best interest to conduct sampling to confirm if there has been a release.
SVE	Soil Vapor Extraction	An in situ soil aeration process designed and operated to maximize the volatilization of low-molecular-weight compounds, with some biodegradation occurring.
SVOC	Semi-Volatile Organic Compound	1) Compounds that do not readily volatilize at standard temperature and pressure. 2) Compounds amenable to analysis by extraction of the sample with an organic solvent. Used synonymously with base neutral acid or extractable compounds.
SW	Surface Water	All water naturally open to the atmosphere (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, impoundments, seas, estuaries, etc.) and all springs, wells, or other collectors directly influenced by surface water.
SWDA	Solid Waste Disposal Act	Requires Federal facilities to comply with all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements concerning the disposal and management of solid wastes.
SWMF	Solid Waste Management Facility	1) Any resource recovery system or component thereof. 2) Any system, program, or facility for resource conservation. 3) Any facility for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment or disposal of solid wastes including hazardous wastes, whether such facility is associated with facilities generating such wastes or otherwise.
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit	Any discernible unit in which wastes have been placed at any time, regardless of whether the unit was designed to accept solid waste or hazardous waste and from which contaminants may migrate; units to include but not be limited to old landfills, wastewater treatment tanks, container storage areas, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment units, incinerators, injection wells, recycling operations, leaking process or waste collection sewers, and transfer stations. SWMUs include any area at a facility at which solid wastes have been routinely and systematically released. Only past releases from SWMUs that also meet the definition of a CERCLA release are eligible for remediation through the IR Program.
SY	Specific Yield	The amount of water that a unit volume of saturated permeable rock will yield when drained by gravity.
SZ	Saturated Zone	The zone of geological material that occurs below the water table, the pores of which are filled with water (soil

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		moisture equals porosity), and the fluid pressure exceeds atmospheric.

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	sacrificial anode	An easily corroded material deliberately installed in a pipe or tank to give it up (sacrifice) to corrosion while the rest of the water supply facility remains relatively corrosion free.
	safe	Condition of exposure under which there is a practical certainty that no harm will result to exposed individuals.
	safe water	Water that does not contain harmful bacteria, toxic materials, or chemicals and is considered safe for drinking even though it may have taste, odor, color and certain mineral problems.
	safe yield	The annual amount of water that can be taken from a source or supply over a period of years without depleting that source beyond its ability to be replenished naturally in "wet years".
	salinity	A measure of the amount of salt in water.
	salt water intrusion	The phenomenon occurring when a body of salt water, because of its greater density, invades a body of fresh water. This may be caused by a loss of pressure in a fresh water aquifer.
	salts	Minerals that water picks up as it passes through the air, over and under the ground, or from households and industry.
	salvage	The utilization of waste materials.
	sanctions	Actions taken by the federal government for failure to plan or implement a State Improvement Plan (SIP). Such action may include withholding of highway funds and a ban on construction of new sources of potential pollution.
	sand	Unconsolidated rock and mineral particles with diameters ranging from 1/16 to 2 mm
	sand filters	Devices that remove some suspended solids from sewage. Air and bacteria decompose additional wastes filtering through the sand so that cleaner water drains from the bed.
	sanitary landfill	See Landfills.
	sanitary sewers	Underground pipes that carry off only domestic or industrial waste, not storm water.
	sanitary survey	An on-site review of the water sources, facilities, equipment, operation and maintenance of a public water system to evaluate the adequacy of those elements for producing and distributing safe drinking water.
	sanitary waste	Wastes, such as garbage, that are generated by normal housekeeping activities and that are not hazardous or radioactive.

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	sanitary water (gray water)	Water discharged from sinks, showers, kitchens, or other nonindustrial operations, but not from commodes.
	sanitation	Control of physical factors in the human environment that could harm development, health, or survival.
	saturation	The condition of a liquid (water) when it has taken into solution the maximum possible quantity of a given substance at a given temperature and pressure.
	scalar	A measure that only has magnitude, e.g., time and temperature.
	scientific notation	A method of writing numbers in terms of powers of ten; e.g., the number 0.000118 would be represented as 1.18×10^{-4} or 1.18E-04 where E stands for exponent, as in the exponent that 10 is raised by.
	scrap	Materials discarded from manufacturing operations that may be suitable for reprocessing.
	screening	Use of screens to remove coarse floating and suspended solids.
	secondary drinking water regulations	Non-enforceable regulations applying to public water systems and specifying the maximum contamination levels that, in the judgment of EPA, are required to protect the public welfare. These regulations apply to any contaminants that may adversely affect the odor or appearance of such water and consequently may cause people served by the system to discontinue its use.
	secondary materials	Materials that have been manufactured and used at least once and are to be used again.
	sediment	1) Material borne and deposited by water. 2) Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain. They pile up in reservoirs, rivers and harbors, destroying fish and wildlife habitat, and clouding the water so that sunlight cannot reach aquatic plants. Careless farming, mining, and building activities will expose sediment materials, allowing them to wash off the land after rainfall.
	sediment yield	The quantity of sediment arriving at a specific location.
	sedimentation	1) Letting solids settle out of wastewater by gravity during treatment. 2) Solids naturally settling out of slow water in rivers, streams and other water bodies.
	sedimentation tanks	Wastewater tanks in which floating wastes are skimmed off and settled solids are removed for disposal.
	seepage	Percolation of water through the soil from unlined canals, ditches, laterals, watercourses, or water storage facilities.
	selected ion monitoring	A data acquisition method for mass spectrometry in which only selected and diagnostic ions are measured, thereby increasing sensitivity and lowering detection limits.
	semi-confined aquifer	An aquifer partially confined by soil layers of low permeability through which recharge and discharge can still occur.
	semilog paper	Graph paper having one logarithmic and one arithmetic scale.

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	sensitivity	The slope of the analytical curve, i.e., functional relationship between emission intensity and concentration.
	settleable solids	Material heavy enough to sink to the bottom of a wastewater treatment tank.
	settling tank	A holding area for wastewater, where heavier particles sink to the bottom for removal and disposal.
	sewage	The waste and wastewater produced by residential and commercial sources and discharged into sewers.
	sewage sludge	Sludge produced at a Publicly Owned Treatment Works, the disposal of which is regulated under the Clean Water Act.
	sewage treatment plant	Typically consists of a complex of tanks, piping and sludge management areas used to treat sanitary sewage. The unit may use chemical or biological treatment methods.
	sewer	A channel or conduit that carries wastewater and storm water runoff from the source to a treatment plant or receiving stream. "Sanitary" sewers carry household, industrial, and commercial waste. "Storm" sewers carry runoff from rain or snow. "Combined" sewers handle both.
	sheet pile wall	Impermeable barrier consisting of steel sheets driven into the ground.
	Shelby tube	A thin-walled, tubular device pressed into an open bore hole to obtain an undisturbed core sample of unconsolidated strata.
	short-circuiting	Undesirable condition in which air flows unevenly through a biopile due to the existence of low-resistance pathways.
	shredding	Mixing and grinding soil to improve homogeneity and increase permeability.
	shrinking plume	The situation in which a groundwater plume margin is receding toward the source area and concentrations within the plume are decreasing over time.
	sieve analysis	Determination of the particle size distribution of soil, sediment or rock by measuring the percentage of the particles that will pass through standard sieves of various sizes.
	significant deterioration	Pollution resulting from a new source in previously "clean" areas.
	significant violations	Violations by point source dischargers of sufficient magnitude or duration to be a regulatory priority.
	silt	Sedimentary materials composed of fine mineral particles with diameters ranging from 0.0002 to 0.05 mm.
	sink	1) Place in the environment where a compound or material collects. 2) A process in which chemicals are removed from the environment or are otherwise made no longer available. For example, the ocean is a sink for CO ₂ because crustaceans use a significant amount in building their shells of calcium carbonate (CaCO ₃). This is very important in modeling the importance of CO ₂ in

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		the greenhouse effect.
	site	1) A single unit where hazardous substances have been deposited, stored, disposed of, or placed. An NPL site is also defined as consisting of all contaminated areas within the area used to define the site, and any other location to or from which contamination from that area has come to be located. The NPL site would include all releases evaluated as part of the HRS analysis. 2) As defined by the Relative Risk Site Evaluation Primer, a site is a discrete area where suspected contamination has been verified, requiring further response action. A site by definition has been, or will be, entered into the Navy Restoration Management Information System (RMIS).
	site assessment program	A means of evaluating hazardous waste sites through preliminary assessments and site inspections to develop a Hazard Ranking System score.
	siting	The process of choosing a location for a facility.
	six-phase heating	A remediation process that involves the in situ application of six-phase electrical current that heats soil to moderate temperatures in order to remove, vaporize, and/or collect volatile and semi volatile contaminants. (Also referred to as electrical conductive heating.)
	skimming	Using a machine to remove oil, other hydrocarbon products, or scum from the surface of water.
	skin absorption	The introduction of a chemical or toxic product into the body by way of the skin. Skin absorption can occur with no sensation to the skin itself.
	sludge	Any solid, semisolid or liquid waste generated from municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility or any other such waste having similar characteristics and effects. It can be a hazardous waste.
	slug test	A single well test conducted to determine the in situ hydraulic conductivity of low to moderate hydraulic conductivity formations by the instantaneous addition, or removal, of a known volume of water or solid object, to or from a well. The subsequent well recovery is measured.
	slurry	A watery mixture of insoluble matter resulting from some pollution control techniques.
	slurry wall	An underground wall design to stop groundwater flow; constructed by digging a trench and backfilling it with a slurry rich bentonite clay or equivalent.
	smear zone	Refers to NAPL that is adhered to a geological formation over a zone that is at times above the water table and at other times below the water table as a result of water table fluctuations.
	soil	A mixture of organic and inorganic solids, air, water, and biota which exists on the earth surface above bedrock, including materials of anthropogenic sources, such as slag, sludge, etc.
	soil gas	Gaseous elements and compounds in the small spaces

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		between particles of the earth and soil. Such gases can be moved or driven out under pressure.
	soil gas permeability	A soil's capacity to allow gas flow. The soil gas permeability varies according to grain size, soil uniformity, porosity, and moisture content.
	soil matrix	Soil as the environmental media containing contaminants.
	soil type	System of classification of soils based on physical properties.
	sole-source aquifer	1) As defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act, an aquifer that is the only source or potential source of drinking water in an area. 2) An aquifer that supplies 50-percent or more of the drinking water of an area.
	solid waste disposal	The final placement of refuse that is not salvaged or recycled.
	solid waste management	The systematic administration of activities which provide for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste.
	solid waste management units	Any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or source, special nuclear or byproduct material as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.
	solidification	1) A treatment process that reduces the mobility of a contaminant by physically restricting its contact with a mobile phase. Solidification is usually accompanied by some form of stabilization. 2) The use of binders for waste bulking to facilitate the handling of liquid wastes.
	solidification and stabilization	Removal of wastewater from a waste or changing it chemically to make it less permeable and susceptible to transport by water.
	solubility	An upper limit on a chemical's dissolved concentration in water at a specified temperature. Aqueous concentrations in excess of solubility may indicate sorption onto sediments, the presence of solubilizing chemicals such as solvents, or the presence of a non-aqueous phase liquid (such as free floating fuel).
	solubilization	Increasing solubility of a substance so that it can dissolve more.
	solute	A substance dissolved in another substance, usually, the component of a solution present in the lesser amount.
	solvent	A substance, usually liquid, that is capable of dissolving another substance to form a solution.

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	solvolysis	A reaction in which the solvent serves as the nucleophile.
	sorb	To take up or hold by means of adsorption or absorption
	sorbed phase	The thin layer of material held near the surface of soil particles by physical and chemical interactions.
	sorption	The action of soaking up or attracting substances; process used in many pollution control systems. Also the general term for physical and chemical absorption and adsorption.
	source	An area where hazardous substances or petroleum products have been deposited, stored, released, disposed of , or placed.
	source (nonpoint)	A contribution of contaminants to the environment that is not derived from a specific location, property, or incident.
	source (point)	A location, property, or incident that has introduced contaminants to the environments; Navy source versus non-Navy source.
	source removal	Extraction of contamination from its place or origin or accumulation in the subsurface.
	source zone	The zone of an aquifer where contaminants originated; in reference to DNAPL, the zone where contamination exists in an undissolved (i.e., no-aqueous) phase.
	sparging	A process in which gases (usually clean air) are injected directly into an aquifer for remediation of contaminated groundwater through a combination of volatilization and enhanced biodegradation of contaminants. The induced air transport through the groundwater removes the more volatile and less soluble contaminants by physical stripping, and the increased oxygen availability in the groundwater stimulates increased biological activity (including degradation of contaminants). Air sparging can be divided into two distinct processes - in-well aeration and air injection.
	special waste	Items such as household hazardous waste, bulky wastes (refrigerators, pieces of furniture, etc.), tires, and used oil.
	species	A reproductively isolated aggregate of interbreeding organisms.
	specific conductance	Rapid method of estimating the dissolved solid content of a water supply by testing the capacity of the water to carry an electrical current.
	spike	Known amounts of specific chemical constituents added by the laboratory to selected samples to test the appropriateness and recover efficiencies of specific analytical methods within the actual sample matrices.
	split spoon sampler	A hollow, tubular sampling device driven by a 140 pound weight below the depth of drilling to retrieve representative samples of the formation.
	spoil	Dirt or rock removed from its original location, destroying the composition of the soil in the process, as in strip-mining, dredging, or construction.
	spring	Groundwater seeping out of the earth where the water

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		table intersects the ground surface.
	stabilization	1) A treatment process whereby chemical molecules become chemically bound by a stabilizing agent (e.g., clay, humic materials), reducing the mobility of the contaminant in groundwater, soil, or sediment. 2) Conversion of the active organic matter in sludge into inert, harmless material.
	stabilization ponds	See Lagoon.
	stable plume	The situation in which a groundwater plume margin is stationary and concentrations at points within the plume do not change over time.
	staged electronic data deliverable	An open source (nonproprietary) uniform format developed by EPA in collaboration with DoD for transmitting environmental data electronically from a laboratory.
	standards	1) The combined application of numeric criteria and narrative policy in order to protect human health and the environment. 2) Norms that impose limits on the amount of pollutants or emissions produced. EPA establishes minimum standards, but states are allowed to be stricter.
	static water level	1) Elevation or level of the water table in a well when the pump is not operating. 2) The level or elevation to which water would rise in a tube connected to an artesian aquifer, or basin, in a conduit under pressure.
	steady state	A stable condition that does not change over time or in which change in one direction is continually balanced by change in another.
	step test	A small to large scale aquifer pumping test where the withdrawal rates are varied over time to assess aquifer characteristics.
	sterilization	The removal or destruction of all microorganisms, including pathogenic and other bacteria, vegetative forms and spores.
	storage	1) Temporary holding of waste pending treatment or disposal, as in containers, tanks, waste piles, and surface impoundments. 2) When used in connection with hazardous waste, the containment of hazardous waste, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years, in such a manner as not to constitute disposal of such hazardous waste.
	storativity	The volume of water an aquifer releases from or takes into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer, per unit change in head. It is equal to the product of specific storage and aquifer thickness. In an unconfined aquifer, the storativity is equal to the specific yield. Synonym - Storage Coefficient.
	storm sewer	A system of pipes (separate from sanitary sewers) that carries only water runoff from buildings and land surfaces.
	stratification	Separating into layers.
	stratigraphy	The relationship of formation composition, sequence and correlation in layered rocks or sediments.

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	stratosphere	The portion of the atmosphere 10 to 25 miles above the earth's surface.
	subchronic	Of intermediate duration, usually used to describe studies or levels of exposure between 5 and 90 days.
	submerged aquatic vegetation	Vegetation such as sea grasses that cannot withstand excessive drying and therefore live with their leaves at or below the water surface; an important habitat for young fish and other aquatic organisms.
	substitution	A reaction in which one substituent on a molecule is replaced by another.
	substrate	1) The base on which an organism lives. 2) A reactant in a microbial respiration reaction (electron donor).
	sulfate reducer	A microorganism that exists in anaerobic environments and reduces sulfate to hydrogen sulfide.
	Summa canister	A Summa canister is a stainless steel vessel which has had the internal surfaces specially passivated using a "Summa" process. This process combines an electropolishing step with chemical deactivation to produce a surface that is chemically inert. A Summa surface has the appearance of a mirror, bright and shiny. They are used to collect ambient air samples over time.
	sump	A pit or tank that catches liquid runoff for drainage or disposal.
	supercritical water	A type of thermal treatment using moderate temperatures and high pressures to enhance the ability of water to break down large organic molecules into smaller, less toxic compounds. Oxygen injected during this process combines with simple organic compounds to form carbon dioxide and water.
	Superfund	A trust fund set up under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to help pay for cleanup of hazardous waste sites and for legal action to force those responsible for the sites to clean them up.
	Superfund Program	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. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising the cleanup and other remedial actions.
	support zone	A safe area at an incident or cleanup for those agencies directly involved in the operation, including the Incident Commander, Emergency Medical Service providers, etc.
	surface impoundment	Treatment, storage, or disposal of liquid hazardous wastes in ponds.
	surface runoff	Precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation in excess of what can infiltrate the soil surface and be stored in small surface depressions; a major transporter of nonpoint source pollutants.

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	surface tension	A property of liquids arising from unbalanced molecular cohesive forces at or near the surface, as a result of which the surface tends to contract and has properties resembling those of a stretched elastic membrane.
	surface to volume ratio	The surface area of an object relative to its volume.
	surfactant	A detergent compound that promotes lathering. Often used as a spill control measure and in remediation systems.
	surrogate	Generally organic compounds which are not target analytes, but are similar to target analytes in chemical composition, extraction, and chromatography, but which are not normally found in environmental samples. These compounds are added to samples to assess analytical performance of a method. They are spiked into all blanks, samples, and spiked samples prior to analysis. Percent recoveries are calculated for each surrogate.
	surrogate sampling device	A secondary or substitute sampling device.
	surveillance system	A series of monitoring devices designed to check on environmental conditions.
	suspended load	Sediment particles maintained in the water column by turbulence and carried with the flow of water.
	suspended solids	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.
	sustainable ranges	Ranges that are managed and operated to support their long-term viability and utility to meet the National defense mission.
	swamp	A type of wetland dominated by woody vegetation but without appreciable peat deposits. Swamps may be fresh or salt water and tidal or non-tidal. See Wetlands.
	synergism	An interaction of two or more chemicals which results in an effect that is greater than the sum of their effects taken independently.
	synthetic	Describing that which is made by synthesis, especially not of natural origin.