

Term	Definition
Assessed	Under Section 305(b) of the CWA, the states, territories, and other jurisdictions of the United States are required to submit reports on the quality of their waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every 2 years. From the assessment a list of impaired waters is developed - the 303(d) list. During the assessment, water body condition is evaluated for seven designated beneficial uses (such as aquatic life habitat, drinking water supply, fish consumption, and water contact recreation). If water quality in an assessed water body has been degraded and does not meet the standards for beneficial uses, the water body may be designated as impaired or threatened, depending on the severity of the degradation.
Catchment	The incremental drainage area for a linear hydrologic feature found in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).
CERCLA (Superfund)	The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. DWMAPS includes sites on the National Priority List (see National Priority List).
Contaminant	Anything found in water (including microorganisms, minerals, chemicals, radionuclides, etc.) which may be harmful to human health. DWMAPS includes contaminants for which a public water system may incur a violation of a primary drinking water regulation.
County Served	Name of the county receiving drinking water from a public water system. A public water system may serve multiple counties.

Term	Definition
Fertilizer	Estimates of nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer sales for the United States (not including Alaska, Hawaii, or territories). Fertilizer sales estimates in this coverage are reported for each county in tons of actual nutrient sold.
Ground Water	The water that systems pump and treat from aquifers (natural reservoirs below the earth's surface).
HUC12	Subdivisions within a watershed. Subwatersheds are the sixth level (12-digit) of the hydrologic unit hierarchy. For more information, see <i>Hydrologic Unit Maps</i> at http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html
Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)	A hierarchical, numeric code that uniquely identifies hydrologic units.
Impaired Waters	Waters with chronic or recurring monitored violations of the applicable numeric or narrative water quality standards under the Clean Water Act (see CWA SECTION 303(d)). States are required to develop lists of impaired waters and set priority rankings for the waters on the list and develop TMDLs for those waters.
Inorganic Contaminants	Mineral-based compounds such as metals, nitrates, and asbestos. These contaminants are naturally-occurring in some water, but can also get into water through farming, chemical manufacturing, and other human activities. As of the 2012 definition, EPA has set legal limits on 15 inorganic contaminants.
Inventory	The count of public water system facilities serving a specific geographic area.
Load	The total amount of pollutants entering a waterbody from one or multiple sources, measured as a rate, as in weight per unit time or per unit area.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology and taking cost into consideration. MCLs are enforceable standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)	The NHD represents the drainage network with features such as rivers, streams, canals, lakes, ponds, coastline, dams, and stream gages.

Term	Definition
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)	A national program under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act for regulation of discharges of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. Discharges are illegal unless authorized by an NPDES permit.
National Priorities List (NPL)	A Federal roster of uncontrolled contamination sites that actually, or potentially, threaten human health or the environment and are eligible for extensive, long-term investigation and cleanup under CERCLA , the Federal Superfund program. As of 2013 there are 1,321 sites on the NPL.
Nonpoint Source Pollution	Pollution that is not released through pipes but rather originates from multiple sources over a relatively large area. Nonpoint sources can be divided into source activities related either to land or water use including failing septic tanks, improper animal-keeping practices, forestry practices, and urban and rural runoff.
Non-Transient, Non-Community Water System (NTNCWS)	A water system which supplies water to 25 or more of the same people at least six months per year in places other than their residences. Some examples are schools, factories, office buildings, and hospitals which have their own water systems.
Organic Contaminants	Carbon-based chemicals, such as solvents and pesticides, which can get into water through runoff from cropland or discharge from factories. As of the 2012 definition, EPA has set legal limits on 56 organic contaminants.
Pesticides	Atrazine use rates by county in pounds per square mile.
Point Source Pollution	Pollutant loads discharged at a specific location from pipes, outfalls, and conveyance channels from either municipal wastewater treatment plants or industrial waste treatment facilities. Point sources can also include pollutant loads contributed by tributaries to the main receiving water stream or river.
Potential Sources of Contamination (PSC)	A facility (such as a RCRA site), event (such rural runoff or a combined sewer overflow) which could pose a potential source of contamination to drinking water supplies.

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Protection Areas (shorthand for Source Water Protection Areas)	The area delineated by a state for a Public Water Supply or including numerous such suppliers, whether the source is ground water or surface water or both. In DWMAPS the protection areas are calculated not by the state, but as follows: "Other" (spring and reservoir) protection areas are equivalent to the catchments that contain them and "well" protection areas are created by buffering each well point by one mile. "Intake" protection areas include catchments that are within 24 hours upstream of the intake facility.
Public Water System (PWS)	Any water system which provides water to at least 25 people for at least 60 days annually. There are more than 170,000 PWSs providing water from wells, rivers, or other sources to about 250 million Americans. The others drink water from private wells. There are differing standards for PWSs of different sizes and types.
Regulated Contaminant (see Clean Water Act toolbar)	Contaminants in drinking water, whose levels are limited by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs or primary standards). The NPDWRs are legally enforceable standards that apply to public water systems, to protect public health.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	RCRA gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from cradle-to-grave. This includes the minimization, generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also sets forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid wastes. RCRA focuses only on active and future facilities and does not address abandoned or historical sites, which are regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Cleanup, and Liability Act (CERCLA) . RCRA regulated facilities are present in DWMAPS.
Risk Type	A facility (such as a RCRA site) or event (such as a combined sewer overflow) which could pose a potential source of contamination to drinking water supplies.
Source Type	The primary source of water for the water system. Includes: Intake, Well, Reservoir, or Spring.

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Source Water	Water in its natural state, prior to any treatment for drinking.
Source Water Protection Area (as used in % of watershed covered by a source water protection area)	Federal source water protection areas are composed of all catchments located one day's time of travel (24 hours) upstream from surface water drinking water system facilities. For wellhead facilities, a buffer radius of 1 mile was used to form the protection area around the intake.
Superfund	The common name for CERCLA . Superfund refers to the entire CERCLA program as well as the trust fund established to fund cleanup of contaminated sites where potentially responsible parties cannot be identified, or are unwilling or unable to pay.
Surface Water	The water that systems pump and treat from sources open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
System Type	A code value which classifies the type of public water system according to federal and state requirements. See: community water system (CWS), non-transient non-community system (NTNCWS), and transient non-community system (TNCWS).
Total maximum daily load (TMDL)	Defines the pollutant load that a water body can acquire without violating water quality standards, and allocates the pollutant loading between contributing point sources and non-point sources.
Transient, Non-Community Water System	A water system which provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time. These systems do not have to test or treat their water for contaminants which pose long-term health risks because fewer than 25 people drink the water over a long period. They still must test their water for microbes and several chemicals.
Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Underground Storage Tanks (UST)	A tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has 10% or more of its volume (including pipe volume) beneath the surface of the ground. USTs are designed to hold gasoline, other petroleum products, and hazardous materials.
Violation	A failure to meet any state or federal drinking water regulation. In DWMAPS this refers to a

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	specific violation of a primary drinking water regulation incurred by a public water system.
Waste Water	Water carrying wastes from homes, businesses and industries that is a mixture of water and dissolved or suspended solids.
Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	A facility containing a series of tanks, screens, filters, and other processes by which pollutants are removed from water. Most treatments include chlorination to attain safe drinking water standards. DWMAPS points represent NPDES permitted discharge points to receiving waters.
Water Quality	The biological, chemical, and physical conditions of a waterbody. It is a measure of a water body's ability to support beneficial uses.
Water Source	The primary source of water for the water system. Includes: Intake, Well, Reservoir, or Spring.
Watershed	The land area from which water drains into a stream, river, or reservoir.