

1.1.5.2. Defined Terms

1) Italicized words and terms in this Standard shall have the following meanings:

Administrator - an Administrator appointed pursuant to Section 14 of the Safety Codes Act.

Aquifer - any porous water-bearing geologic formation capable of yielding a supply of water.

Aquifer, Domestic Use - (DUA) a geologic unit (either of a single lithology or inter-bedded units) that is above the Base of Groundwater Protection and has one or more of the following properties:

- a) a bulk hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-6} m/s or greater and sufficient thickness to support a sustained yield of 0.76 L/min or greater,
- b) is currently being used for domestic purposes, or
- c) is any *aquifer* determined by Alberta Environment to be a DUA.¹

¹ Note: While it is possible that peat deposits and muskeg may meet the definition of a DUA, based on hydraulic conductivity and unit thickness, Alberta Environment generally does not consider peat deposits or muskeg to be a DUA because groundwater in them is unlikely to be used as a domestic source.

Berm - the raised area around a *treatment mound*, *sand filter*, *lagoon*, or *privy*.

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) - the amount of oxygen (expressed as mg/L) utilized by micro-organisms in the oxidation of organic matter during a 5-day period at a temperature of 20°C (68°F). This measure is typically used for raw *wastewater* samples.

Building - any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy that is subject to the Alberta Building Code requirements.

Building drain - the lowest horizontal piping, including any vertical offset, that conducts *sewage*, *clear-water waste*, or *storm water* by gravity to a *building sewer*.¹

¹ Note: as the building sewer starts 1 m (3.25 ft.) outside the building, the building drain then ends at a point 1 m (3.25 ft.) outside the building.

Building sewer - a pipe connected to a *building drain* starting 1 m (3.25 ft.) outside a wall of a *building* and that connects to a public sewer or *on-site wastewater treatment system*.

Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (cBOD₅) - the amount of oxygen (expressed as mg/L) utilized by micro-organisms in the non-nitrogenous oxidation of organic matter in *wastewater* during a 5-day period at a temperature of 20°C (68°F). This measure is typically used for *effluent* samples.

Certified - investigated and identified by a designated testing organization as conforming to recognized standards, requirements, or test reports as set out in this standard or acceptable to the *Administrator*.

Clearwater waste - *wastewater* with impurity levels that will not likely be harmful to a person's health but is not considered *potable*.

Coarse-fragment - mineral particles in the *soil* that exceed 2.00 mm in *diameter*.

COLE (Coefficient Of Linear Extensibility) - the percentage decrease in the length of a bar of *soil* formed from a disturbed *soil* sample at its liquid limit (saturation limit) after being dried in an oven.

Consistence - an attribute of *soil* expressed in degree of cohesion and adhesion, or in resistance to deformation or rupture. *Consistence* includes: the resistance of *soil* material to rupture; resistance to penetration; the plasticity, toughness, or stickiness of puddled *soil* material; and the manner in which the *soil* material behaves when subjected to compression. Classifications of moist *soil consistence* include loose, very friable, friable, firm, very firm, and extremely firm.

Cumulative impact - the total impact attributable to numerous individual influences.

Development - *buildings* or other constructed facilities.

Diameter unless otherwise indicated, the nominal *diameter* by which a pipe, fitting, trap, or other item is commercially designated.

Distribution header - a non-perforated pipe, receiving *effluent* from the *effluent sewer* or *effluent line*, which distributes *effluent* by pressure or gravity to more than one *effluent distribution lateral pipe*, *weeping lateral pipe*, or *weeping lateral trench*.

Distribution lateral pipe - a perforated pressurized pipe used to evenly distribute *effluent* throughout the entire length of a *weeping lateral trench* or over a surface area in a *sand filter* or *treatment mound*.

Drain media - clean washed *gravel*, clean crushed rock, or other media into which *effluent* is distributed or used to collect *effluent* below treatment filter media and meets the specific material requirements set out in this Standard for its specific purpose.

Dwelling or Dwelling unit - a suite operated as a housekeeping unit that is used or intended to be used as a domicile by one or more persons and usually contains cooking, eating, living, sleeping, and sanitary facilities.

DWV pipe - a class of piping *certified* for use in a plumbing system for use as drain, waste, and venting piping.

Effective particle size (D_{10}) - the size of opening of an ideal sieve that would retain 90% of a sample, while passing 10% of the sample.

Effluent - the liquid discharged from any *on-site wastewater treatment system* component.

Effluent chamber or Effluent tank - a chamber within a tank or any tank that receives and stores *effluent* (from which *effluent* is periodically discharged into other components of the treatment system).

Effluent hydraulic linear loading - the cumulative total of *effluent* applied to the *soil* profile below a *soil-based treatment area*, expressed as volume per unit length per unit time, e.g., litres per day per lineal metre, along the axis of the *soil-based treatment area* that is oriented at 90 degrees to the assumed direction of subsurface flow (typically this is consistent with surface slope direction).

Effluent hydraulic loading rate - the quantity of *effluent* applied to a given treatment component, usually expressed as volume per unit of infiltrative surface area per unit time, e.g., liters per day per square metre (Lpd/m²) or imperial gallons per day per square foot (gpd/ft²).

Effluent line - piping for the flow of *effluent* under pressure and supplied by a pump.

Effluent sewer - piping for the flow of *effluent* through the action of gravity.

Equalization tank - a tank that provides storage of *wastewater* or *effluent* to enable timed-dosing by pumps to manage flow variations, resulting in a more uniform delivery of *wastewater* or *effluent* to a subsequent component over time, usually a day or more; also known as a *surge tank*.

Field capacity - the maximum amount of water that can be held by a *soil* without draining by gravity.

Field header - a main gravity *weeping lateral pipe* that also distributes *effluent* to other *weeping lateral pipes* in a *treatment field* where all *weeping lateral trenches* and the *distribution header* are at the same elevation and level.

Filter fabric - a synthetic woven or spun-bonded sheet material used to impede or prevent the movement of *sand*, *silt*, and *clay* into the spaces between larger media but does not impede the movement of air or water.

Fines - particles that can pass through a 0.15mm (0.0059 in.) No. 100 sieve.

Gleyed - a characteristic of a *soil* that has undergone gleysation, a *soil*-forming process that occurs under poor drainage conditions and results in redoximorphic features (the reduction of iron and other elements and in bluish, greenish or gray *soil colours*, and/or rust or gray coloured mottles). It is indicative of *soils* that are saturated or waterlogged for significant periods of time, which limits the suitability of *soil* for an *effluent* treatment system. See the Canadian Soil Information System for a more definitive definition and further information on identifying *gleyed soils*.

Grade -

- a) in relation to *soil* characteristics, the degree of visual distinctness and cohesion of *soil* aggregates into peds expressed as grade: single grained structureless or massive (0), weak (1), moderate (2), or strong (3), or
- b) in relation to an elevation on the landscape, the upper surface of the ground.

Gravel - see *Drain Media*

Greywater - *wastewater* that does not include waste from toilets or urinals, and that must be effectively managed and treated in accordance with this Standard.

Groundwater mounding - the rise in elevation of the *seasonally saturated soil*, regional *water table* or the creation of a perched *water table* below the *soil-based treatment area* resulting from the addition of *effluent* to the *soil*.

Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI) - groundwater having incomplete/undependable subsurface filtration of surface water and infiltrating precipitation.¹

¹ Note: Refer to the Alberta Environment document entitled "Assessment Guideline for Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI)" for determining whether a groundwater source is GWUDI.

Holding tank - a tank designed to retain *wastewater* or *effluent* until transferred into mobile equipment for treatment offsite.

Infiltration -

- a) entry of water or *effluent* into the *soil*;
- b) undesirable inflow or seepage of water into a system component, for example, infiltration of surface water into a tank through a leaking pipe or through an access riser/tank seam that is not water-tight.

Lagoon - an man-made pond for the storage, treatment, and stabilization of *wastewater* or *effluent*.

LFH At-grade system - a system for the dispersal and final treatment of *effluent* that

- a) is located in a well-established forested area having a substantial LFH (litter, fermented, humic) layer,
- b) has a pressurized *effluent distribution lateral pipe* system that is placed on the surface of the undisturbed forest floor inside a chamber, and
- c) has wood chips, or other material that is suited to the ecology of the forest, covering the chambers.

Lift Station - a tank-and-pump assembly used for the prime purpose of lifting *sewage* to a higher elevation and discharging it into other parts of the *on-site wastewater treatment system*.

Limiting condition - *soil* or site characteristic that reduces the efficiency of *effluent* treatment in the *soil* or reduces hydraulic conductivity and thus restricts design options for a system.

Linear loading - (See *Effluent hydraulic linear loading*).

Mobile soil water content - the amount of water held in a *soil* between the *soil's field capacity* and the hygroscopic water holding ability of the *soil*, that is displaced as additional water is added to the *soil* volume.

Mottling - a *soil* zone of chemical oxidation and reduction activity, appearing as splotchy patches of red, brown, orange, or gray in the *soil*, that may indicate the presence of a *water table*.

Nominally level - level, so as to not affect the performance of the system.

On-site wastewater treatment system - a system for the management and/or treatment of *wastewater* at or near the *development* that generates the *wastewater*, including that portion of the *building sewer* 1.8 m (6 ft.) upstream of any *on-site lift station*, *equalization tank*, *settling tank*, *septic tank*, *packaged sewage treatment plant*, *holding tank*, or *berm* of a *sewage lagoon*, and includes the final *soil*-based *effluent* dispersal and treatment system but does not include the plumbing *building drain* from the *development*, which ends 1 m (3.25 ft.) outside a *building*.

Open discharge system - a system designed to discharge *effluent* to the ground surface to accomplish evaporation and absorption of the *effluent* into the *soil* as a method of treatment.

Organic loading - the total mass loading per unit of area per unit of time based on the *cBOD₅* concentration in the *effluent*, multiplied by the volume of *effluent* applied over a given time, e.g., grams of *cBOD₅*/m²/day.

Packaged sewage treatment plant - a manufactured unit that is used to substantially improve the *effluent* quality beyond the quality of *effluent* expected of a *septic tank*.

Packed bed filter - a container(s) packed with a filter media that receives *effluent* from an *effluent* distribution system to achieve the aerobic, biological, and physical treatment of *wastewater* as it passes through and comes in contact with the filter media.

Parcel - has the same meaning as *property*, as defined in this standard, which is also the same meaning as set out in Section 616 of the Municipal Government Act

Particle size analysis - establishing the percentage of *sand*, *silt*, or *clay* particles in a *soil* sample by of a standard hydrometer method and sieve analysis, as set out in the Canadian Soil Information System (CanSIS Analytical Methods Manual 1984 or other more recent and equivalent method recognized in the *soil* sciences).

Percolation test - a procedure to estimate the rate the *soil* can accept and move clean water in saturated flow conditions.

Potable - suitable for human consumption.

Pressure head - the pressure existing in a fluid expressed as the height of a column of water that would exert an equal pressure.

Primary treatment - physical treatment processes involving removal of particles, typically by settling and flotation with or without the use of coagulants; (e.g. a *septic tank* provides *primary treatment*).

Private sewage system - (See *On-site wastewater treatment system*).

Primary treated effluent or primary treated effluent Level 1 - effluent that

- a) 80% of the time has
 - i) *cBOD₅* of less than 150 mg/L,
 - ii) *TSS* of less than 100 mg/L, and
 - iii) oil and grease content of less than 15 mg/L, and
- b) does not exceed
 - i) *cBOD₅* of 230 mg/L,
 - ii) *TSS* of 150 mg/L, and
 - iii) oil and grease content of 30 mg/L.

Privy - a small *building* having a toilet pedestal, or bench with a hole or holes, through which human excretion falls into an excavated pit or waterproof vault.

Property - the land described in the Certificate of Title issued under the Land Titles Act.

Re-circulating gravel filter - a system where *effluent* is re-circulated through filter media a number of times on an intermittent basis before being discharged for additional treatment or into a final treatment and dispersal system. (This design is often used to treat higher strength *wastewater*. It is sometimes referred to as a “re-circulating *sand filter*” in the industry).

Restricting layer or restrictive layer - a *soil* horizon, *soil* layer, or other condition in the *soil* profile, or underlying strata, that restricts the downward movement of fluids that could cause a perched *watertable* or saturated *soil* under the *soil infiltration surface* of the system. Examples include but are not limited to: a fragipan or spodic horizon, fine textured *soil* with massive *structure*, certain bedrock, *seasonally saturated soils*, *water table*, etc.

Sand filter - a *single-pass sand filter* that is intermittently dosed and that uses specifically graded *sand* or other media as the media for filtration and treatment of *effluent*.

Sand filter media - the granular filter media used in a *sand filter* for the treatment of the *effluent*.

Sand filter surface area - the area of the level plane section of the *sand filter media* receiving the *effluent* immediately below the *drain media* or chambers containing the pressurized *effluent* distribution piping.

Sand layer - (when referring to a *treatment mound*) the required depth and area of specifically graded *sand* that will receive the *effluent* distributed through a *grave/bed* or chambers located immediately above the *sand layer*.

Seasonally saturated soil - a *soil* that is seasonally saturated by a periodic high *water table* and is identified by the presence of *mottling* or *gleying* in the *soil*.

Secondary treated effluent - *effluent* that at least 80% of the time meets the *effluent* quality parameters set out in Table 5.1.1.1 for *secondary treated effluent* Levels 2, 3, or 4.

Septic tank - a tank or chamber(s) within a tank used to provide *primary treatment* of *wastewater* through the process of settling and floating of solids and in which digestion of the accumulated sludge occurs.

Serial distribution - a *treatment field* design where discharged *effluent* is forced to travel through one *weeping lateral trench* to get to another *weeping lateral trench*.

Settling tank - a tank, or chamber within a tank, that typically has a limited retention time and is installed upstream of a *packaged sewage treatment plant* or other initial treatment system and is intended for the removal of larger items or inorganic material in the *wastewater* stream and may also provide some level of treatment and anaerobic digestion (sometimes referred to as a “trash tank”).

Sewage - (see *Wastewater*).

Shore - the edge of a body of water; includes the land adjacent to a body of water that has been covered so long by water as to wrest it from vegetation, or as to mark a distinct character on the vegetation where it extends into the water or on the *soil* itself.

Single-pass sand filter - a system in which the *effluent* is applied on an intermittent basis and flows through the filter only once before being discharged for additional treatment or final dispersal.

Size - unless indicated otherwise, the nominal size by which a pipe, fitting, trap, or other item is commercially designated.

Slope of land - a landscape form or feature demonstrating a change in elevation; typically described as a percentage (amount of rise divided by amount of run multiplied by 100).

Smectitic or Smectitic soil - a *soil* that has characteristics significantly influenced by smectite *clays*, which are a group of 2:1 layer silicates with a high cation exchange capacity, about 110 cmol/kg *soil* smectites, and variable interlayer spacing; formerly called the montmorillonite group. The group includes dioctahedral members (montmorillonite, beidellite, and nontronite) and trioctahedral members (saponite, hectorite, and sauconite). These *soils* can increase the risk of failure when *effluent* having a high SAR is applied. For test methods that can assist in identifying these *soils* and the *soil*'s susceptibility to dispersion when applying *effluent* with a high SAR, see the Private Sewage Treatment Systems Standard of Practice handbook. Information on the Emerson modified soil dispersion test is also helpful.

Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) - a ratio of sodium, calcium, and magnesium that is used to express the relative activity of sodium ions in exchange reactions with *soil*. *Effluent* having a high SAR leads to a breakdown in the physical structure of the *soil* in *smectitic soils*.

Soil - a naturally occurring, unconsolidated mineral or organic material at the earth's surface that is capable of supporting plant growth. Its properties usually vary with depth and are determined by climatic factors and organisms, as conditioned by relief and hence water regime, acting on geologic materials and producing genetic horizons that differ from the parent material.

Soil colour - colour features of a *soil* that indicate *soil* formation processes and conditions. The colours are indicators of the level of aerobic conditions of the *soil*, which is important to *wastewater* treatment in the *soil*. The Munsell Colour System is the method used to define and communicate the colours of the *soil*.

Soil horizon - a layer of *soil* or *soil* material approximately parallel to the land surface; it differs from adjacent genetically related layers in properties such as *colour*, *structure*, *texture*, *consistence*, and chemical, biological, and mineralogical composition.

Soil infiltration surface - the surface of *soil* receiving *effluent* for final treatment but does not include the *infiltration* surface of an engineered media or *soil* intended to improve the quality of the *effluent* prior to *infiltration* in to the *soil* for final treatment, such as the *sand layer* in a *treatment mound*.

Soil separates - has the following 3 categories:

- a) **Sand** soil particles of a size between 0.05–2 mm.
- b) **Silt** soil particles of a size between 0.002– <0.05 mm.
- c) **Clay** soil particles of a size smaller than 0.002 mm.

Soil structure or **Structure** - the combination or arrangement of primary *soil* particles into secondary units or *peds*; secondary units are characterized on the basis of shape, size class, and *grade* (degree of visual distinctness and cohesion of soil aggregates into *peds* expressed as: single grained structureless or massive (0), weak (1), moderate (2), or strong (3)).

Soil texture classification or **Texture** - the relative proportions of the various *soil separates* in a *soil* (*sand*, *silt*, *clay*) and is described with the following *soil/textural* classes and sub-classes:

- a) **Sand** - *soil* material that contains 85% or more *sand*; the percentage of *silt* plus 1.5 times the percentage of *clay* does not exceed 15; *sand* has the following sub-classes:
 - i) **Coarse sand** - 25% or more very coarse and coarse *sand*, and less than 50% any other one grade of *sand*. *Coarse sand* has a size limit that ranges between 1.0 to 0.5 mm. *Very coarse sand* has a size limit that ranges between 1.0 to 2.0 mm.
 - ii) **Medium sand** - 25% or more very coarse, coarse, and medium *sand*, and less than 50% *fine* or *very fine sand*. *Medium Sand* has a size limit that ranges between 0.5 and 0.25 mm.
 - iii) **Fine sand** - 50% or more *fine sand* or less than 25% very coarse, coarse, and medium *sand* and less than 50% *very fine sand*. *Fine sand* has a size limit that ranges between 0.25 and 0.10 mm.
 - iv) **Very fine sand** - 50% or more *very fine sand*. *Very fine sand* has a size limit that ranges between 0.10 to 0.05 mm.
- b) **Loamy sand** - *soil* material that contains at the upper limit 85 to 90% *sand*, and the percentage of *silt* plus 1.5 times the percentage of *clay* is not less than 15; at the lower limit it contains not less than 70 to 85% *sand*, and the percentage of *silt* plus twice the percentage of *clay* does not exceed 30; *loamy sand* has the following sub-classes:
 - i) **Loamy coarse sand** - 25% or more very coarse and coarse *sand* and less than 50% any other one grade of *sand*.
 - ii) **Loamy medium sand** - 25% or more very coarse, coarse, and medium *sand* and less than 50% *fine* or *very fine sand*.
 - iii) **Loamy fine sand** - 50% or more *fine sand* or less than 25% very coarse, coarse, and medium *sand* and less than 50% *very fine sand*.
 - iv) **Loamy very fine sand** - 50% or more is *very fine sand*.
- c) **Sandy loam** - *soil* material that contains either 20% or less *clay*, with a percentage of *silt* plus twice the percentage of *clay* that exceeds 30, and 52% or more *sand*; or less than 7% *clay*, less than 50% *silt*, and between 43% and 52% *sand*; *sandy loam* has the following sub-classes:
 - i) **Coarse sandy loam** - 25% or more very coarse and coarse *sand* and less than 50% any other one grade of *sand*.

- ii) **Medium sandy loam** - 30% or more very coarse, coarse, and *medium sand*, but less than 25% very coarse sand, and less than 30% very fine sand or fine sand.
- iii) **Fine sandy loam** - 30% or more fine sand and less than 30% very fine sand or between 15 and 30% very coarse, coarse sand, and medium sand.
- iv) **Very fine sandy loam** - 30% or more very fine sand or more than 40% fine sand and very fine sand, at least half of which is very fine sand, and less than 15% very coarse, coarse sand, and medium sand.
- d) **Loam** - soil material that contains 7 to 27% clay, 28 to 50% silt, and less than 52% sand.
- e) **Silt loam** - soil material that contains 50% or more silt and 12 to 27% clay, or 50 to 80% silt and less than 12% clay.
- f) **Silt** - soil material that contains 80% or more silt and less than 12% clay. Silt has a size limit that ranges from 0.05 to 0.002 mm.
- g) **Sandy clay loam** - soil material that contains 20 to 35% clay, less than 28% silt, and 45% or more sand.
- h) **Clay loam** - soil material that contains 27 to 40% clay and 20 to 45% sand.
- i) **Silty clay loam** - soil material that contains 27 to 40% clay and less than 20% sand.
- j) **Sandy clay** - soil material that contains 35% or more clay and 45% or more sand.
- k) **Silty clay** - soil material that contains 40% or more clay and 40% or more silt.
- l) **Clay** - soil material that contains 40% or more clay, less than 45% sand, and less than 40% silt. Clay has a size limit that is less than 0.002 mm.
- m) **Heavy clay** - soil material that contains more than 60% clay.

Soil-based treatment area or system - the physical location and area where the dispersal of effluent into the soil and final treatment of the effluent in the soil occurs.

Storm water - water discharged from a surface as a result of rainfall or melting snowfall.

Subsoil foundation drainage pipe - a piping system that is installed underground to intercept and convey subsurface water away from a foundation.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) - the dispersed particulate matter in a wastewater sample that may be retained by a filter medium. Suspended solids may include both settleable and unsetttable solids of both inorganic and organic origin. This parameter is widely used to monitor the performance of the various stages of wastewater treatment, and is often used in conjunction with *BOD₅* and *cBOD₅* to describe wastewater strength.

Treatment boundary limits - the limits of the treatment zone in the soil as defined by this Standard and as used in a design, such as the vertical separation depth required below an infiltrative surface that effluent is applied over and at the point the design requires or expects treatment to be achieved.

Treatment field - a system of effluent dispersal and treatment by distributing effluent within trenches containing void spaces that are covered with soil and includes the following types:

- a) **conventional treatment field** - a system of effluent dispersal and treatment utilizing perforated piping laid in a bed of gravel in trenches for distributing effluent within the trenches,

- b) **chamber system treatment field** - a system of *effluent* dispersal and treatment using preformed structures to provide a void space for storage and movement of *effluent*, and an interface with the exposed infiltrative surface of the *soil*,
- c) **gravel substitute treatment field** - a *conventional treatment field*, in which the *gravel* is replaced with an alternate media having characteristics that will provide void space and performance similar to *gravel*, and
- d) **raised treatment field** - any of the above variations of *treatment fields* where *soil* is imported to enable all or a portion of the *treatment field* trench to be located above the in situ *soil* surface.

Treatment mound or Mound - a system where the *effluent* is distributed onto a *sand layer* and is built above *grade* to overcome limits imposed by depth to *seasonally saturated soil* or bedrock, or by highly permeable or impermeable *soils*.

Typical wastewater - wastewater that¹

- a) 80% of the time has
 - i) *BOD₅* of less than 220 mg/L,
 - ii) *TSS* of less than 220 mg/L, and
 - iii) oil and grease content of less than 50 mg/L, and
- b) does not exceed
 - i) *BOD₅* of 300 mg/L,
 - ii) *TSS* of 350 mg/L, and
 - iii) oil and grease content of 70 mg/L.

¹ Note: These concentrations assume a design peak daily flow of 340 L per person per day.

Underdrain media - (as used in a *sand filter*) material that is placed under the *sand filter media* in a *sand filter* and is of a size to support the *sand*.

Underdrain piping - piping placed under the *sand filter surface area* in the *underdrain media* or *drain media* to collect the *effluent* that has travelled through the *sand filter*.

Uniformity coefficient (CU) - a numeric quantity that is calculated by dividing the size of the opening which will pass 60% of a sample by the size of the opening which will pass 10% of the sample ($D_{60}/D_{10}=CU$).

Vadose zone - the depth of *soil* from the top of the ground surface, in which *soil* water has a *pressure head* less than atmospheric pressure and is retained by a combination of adhesion and capillary action, to the depth at which *soil* water is at atmospheric pressure.

Vertical separation - the depth of unsaturated *soil* between the *soil infiltration surface* and a *restricting layer*.

Wastewater - the composite of liquid and water-carried wastes associated with the use of water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, washing, hygiene, sanitation, or other domestic purposes; includes *greywater* but does not include liquid waste from industrial processes.

Water course;

- a) a river, stream, creek, or lake,
- b) swamp, marsh, or other natural body of water,
- c) a canal, reservoir, or other man-made surface feature intended to contain water for a specified use, whether it contains or conveys water continuously or intermittently, but

does not include surface water run-off drainage ditches, such as those found at the side of roads, or

- d) an area that water flows through or stands in long enough to establish a definable change in or absence of vegetation (See definition of *shore*).

Waterre-use - a beneficial use of the treated *wastewater* directed to a specific purpose other than the general release to surface or subsurface environments.

Water source - a man-made or natural source of *potable* water.¹

¹ Note: A cistern is also considered to be a water source when buried in the earth. An above ground tank or a freestanding tank within a basement of a building would not have to meet minimum distance requirements from treatment components.

Water table - the highest elevation in the *soil* at any given point in time where all voids are filled with water, as evidenced by the presence of water, *soil mottling*, or other *soil* characteristics that indicate intermittent saturated *soil* conditions.

Waterwell - an opening in the ground, whether drilled, bored, dug or otherwise altered from its natural state, which is used, or intended to be used, for the withdrawal of groundwater.

Weeping lateral pipe - the perforated pipe used to distribute *effluent* by gravity within a *treatment field* trench.

Weeping lateral trench - a trench in a *treatment field* that receives *effluent* and provides a *soil infiltration surface*.

Working capacity - the liquid volume of *wastewater* held in the septic chamber when the tank is properly installed and is in normal use, and does not include the air space, siphon chamber, pumping chamber, or *effluent chamber* of a tank.