

APPENDICES



**STORMWATER RESOURCES
GLOSSARY**

STORMWATER RESOURCES

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VIII	(800) 227-8917
Army Corps of Engineers	(801) 295-8380
Salt Lake City-County Health Department	
Water Quality and Hazardous Waste	313-6700
Environmental Health	313-6600
Utah Department of Environmental Quality	
Division of Water Quality	538-6146
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation	536-4100
Division of Air Quality	536-4000
Solid and Harzardous Waste - Used Oil Hotline	(800) 458-0145
Utah Division of Natural Resources	
General Information	539-4001
Salt Lake County Public Works	
Engineering	468-2000
Flood Control	468-2711

GLOSSARY

Berm: An earthen mound used to direct the flow of runoff around or through a structure.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Includes schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Bioengineering: Restoration or reinforcement of slopes and stream banks with living plant materials.

Conveyance System: Any channel or pipe for collecting and directing the stormwater.

Culvert: A covered channel or large diameter pipe that directs water flow below the ground surface.

Degradation: (Biological or chemical) The breakdown of chemical compounds into simpler substances, usually less harmful than the original compound, as with the degradation of a persistent pesticide. (Geological) Wearing down by erosion. (Water) The lowering of the water quality of a watercourse by an increase in the amount of pollutant(s).

Dike: An embankment to confine or control water, often built along the banks of a river to prevent overflow of lowlands; a levee.

Discharge: The release of stormwater or other substance from a conveyance system or storage container.

Drainage: Refers to the collection, conveyance, containment, and/or discharge of surface and stormwater runoff.

Erosion: The wearing away of land surface by wind or water. Erosion occurs naturally from weather or runoff but can be intensified by land-clearing practices related to farming, residential or industrial development, road building, or timber-cutting.

Eutrophication: The process of over-enrichment of waters by nutrients, often typified by the presence of algal blooms.

Fibric Peats: Those peats in which the undecomposed fibrous organic materials are easily identifiable. The most common fibric peat is sphagnum moss, which is extremely acidic.

Fill: A deposit of earth material placed by artificial means.

First Flush: The delivery of a disproportionately large load of pollutants during the early part of storms due to the rapid runoff of accumulated pollutants.

Forebay: An extra storage area provided near the inlet of a BMP to trap incoming sediments before they accumulate in a pond BMP.

Gabion: A large rectangular box of heavy gage wire mesh, which holds large cobbles and boulders. Used in streams and ponds to change flow patterns, stabilize banks, or prevent erosion.

General Permit: A permit issued under the NPDES program to cover a class or category of stormwater discharges.

Grading: The cutting and/or filling of the land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

Hazardous Waste: By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (flammable, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), or appears on special EPA lists.

Heavy Metals: Metals of high specific gravity, present in municipal and industrial wastes, that pose long-term environmental hazards. Such metals include cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc.

Hemic Peats: Peats which are intermediate in their properties between those of the fibric and sapric categories. They are typically more decomposed than fibric peats but less so than sapric. Similarly, hydraulic conductivity and color of hemic peat are generally intermediate between those of the other two peat categories.

Hydraulic Head: The height of water above any plain of reference.

Individual Permit: A permit issued under the NPDES program for a specific facility, whereby the unique characteristics of that facility may be addressed through the imposition of special conditions or requirements.

Infiltration: The downward movement of water from the surface to the subsoil. The infiltration capacity is expressed in terms of inches/hour.

Ingress/Egress: The points of access to and from a property.

Inlet: An entrance into a ditch, storm sewer, or other waterway.

Mulch: A natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other materials covering the land surface which conserves moisture, holds soil in place, aids in establishing plant cover, and minimizes temperature fluctuations.

Nonpoint Source: Pollution caused by diffuse sources (not a single location such as a pipe) such as agricultural or urban runoff.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System): EPA's program to control the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

NPDES Permit: An authorization, or license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency to implement the requirements of the NPDES program.

Off-site: Any area lying upstream of the site that drains onto the site and any area lying downstream of the site to which the site drains.

On-site: The entire property that includes the proposed development.

Outfall: The point, location, or structure where wastewater or drainage discharges from a sewer pipe, ditch, or other conveyance to a receiving body of water.

Point Source: Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Plat: A map or representation of a subdivision showing the division of a tract or parcel of land into lots, blocks, streets, or other divisions and dedications.

Pollutant: Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Receiving Waters: Bodies of water or surface water systems receiving water from upstream constructed (or natural) systems.

Retention: The holding of runoff in a basin without release except by means of evaporation, infiltration, or emergency bypass.

Riparian: A relatively narrow strip of land that borders a stream or river.

Riprap: A combination of large stone, cobbles and boulders used to line channels, stabilize banks, reduce runoff velocities, or filter out sediment.

Runon: Stormwater surface flow or other surface flow which enters property other than that where it originated.

Runoff: That part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into the receiving waters.

Sapric Peat: Includes the most highly decomposed peat materials. In sapric peats, the original plant fibers have mostly disappeared. The water-holding capacity of sapric peat is commonly less than that of either fibric or hemic peat. Sapric peats are typically very dark gray to black in color and are quite stable in their physical properties.

Sedimentation: The process of depositing soil particles, clays, sands, or other sediments that were picked up by runoff.

Sheet Flow: Runoff which flows over the ground surface as a thin, even layer, not concentrated in a channel.

Sorption: The physical or chemical binding of pollutants to sediment or organic particles.

Source Control: A practice or structural measure to prevent pollutants from entering stormwater runoff or other environmental media.

Stabilization: The proper placing, grading and/or covering of soil, rock, or earth to ensure its resistance to erosion, sliding, or other movement.

Storm Drain: A slotted opening leading to an underground pipe or open ditch for carrying surface runoff.

Stormwater: Rainfall runoff, snow melt runoff, and drainage. It excludes infiltration.

Swale: An elongated depression in the land surface that is at least seasonally wet, is usually heavily vegetated, and is normally without flowing water. Swales direct stormwater flows into primarily drainage channels and allow some of the stormwater to infiltrate into the ground surface.

Treatment: The act of applying a procedure or chemicals to a substance to remove undesirable pollutants.

Treatment Control BMP: A BMP that is intended to remove pollutants from stormwater.

Turbidity: Describes the ability of light to pass through water. The cloudy appearance of water is caused by suspended and colloidal matter (particles).

Urban Runoff: Stormwater that passes through and out of developed areas to a stream or other body of water.

Wetlands: An area that is regularly saturated by surface or ground water and subsequently characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include: swamps, bogs, marshes, and estuaries.