

# **GLOSSARY**

<b>Aquifer</b>	A water-bearing rock, sand, or gravel layer that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well or spring.
<b>Aquifer Velocity</b>	The distance that ground water moves in an aquifer on an annual basis, usually reported in feet per year.
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	Practices that help minimize the risk of contamination. Examples of Best Management Practices include local ordinances, zoning, and proper disposal of hazardous wastes.
<b>Class I Well</b>	Wells used to inject hazardous wastes or dispose of non-hazardous industrial waste and treated municipal sewage below the deepest underground source of drinking water.
<b>Class II Well</b>	Wells used to inject fluids associated with the production of oil and natural gas or fluids and compounds used for enhanced hydrocarbon recovery. These wells normally inject below the deepest underground source of drinking water (USDW) except in cases where the USDW contains producible quantities of oil or gas.
<b>Class III Well</b>	Wells that inject fluids used in subsurface mining of minerals.
<b>Class V Well</b>	Wells not included in the other classes that inject non-hazardous fluid into or above an underground source of drinking water. (the seven major types of Class V wells include drainage wells, geothermal re-injection wells, domestic wastewater disposal wells, mineral and fossil fuel recovery related wells, industrial/commercial/utility disposal wells, recharge wells and miscellaneous wells. Class V injection wells also include all large-capacity cesspools and motor vehicle waste disposal wells.)
<b>Community Water System</b>	A public water system that provides water through constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or an average of 25 individuals daily at least 60 days per year.
<b>Contaminant</b>	A material that may cause or significantly contribute to a present or potential risk to human health, safety, welfare, or that is present in ground water or the natural

environment such that it degrades the quality of the resources so as to constitute a hazard and/or impair its use.

**Contamination**

The presence of a material that may cause or significantly contribute to a present or potential risk to human health, safety, welfare, or that is present in ground water or the natural environment such that it degrades the quality of the resources so as to constitute a hazard and/or impair its use.

**Contingency Plan**

A plan of action adopted by a community or water system to deal with a long or short term partial or total loss of their normal water supply. The plan outlines alternative water sources and priority users in emergencies.

**Delineation**

Determination of the outline or shape of the Drinking Water Protection Area.

**Drinking Water Protection Area**

The area around a drinking water source, such as a well or surface water intake, delineated by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality as part of Source Water Assessment Program, a government initiative to protect drinking water sources.

**Ground Water**

The water contained in the interconnected pores located below the ground in an aquifer.

**Hazardous Materials**

A material that may cause or significantly contribute to a present or potential risk to human health, safety, welfare, to ground or surface water resources, or the natural environment.

**Hydrogeologic**

The interrelationships of geologic materials and processes with water.

**Impervious Surface**

A surface covered by a material that is relatively impermeable to water.

**Inactive Water Well**

A well is considered to be inactive if it is not presently in operation but is maintained in such a way that it can be put back in operation, with a minimum of effort to supply water.

<b>Inventory</b>	A list of the names and locations of potential sources of contamination.
<b>Permeability</b>	The measure of the relative ease with which porous media such as sand or gravel can transmit a liquid under a specified gradient.
<b>Porosity</b>	The measure of the percentage of open space between the grains in a rock or other media such as sand, gravel, or clay.
<b>Potential Source of Contamination</b>	Any facility, location, or activity that stores, uses, or produces as a product or by-product, potential contaminants and has sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a threat to a drinking water sources.
<b>Potential Susceptibility Analysis</b>	A process that measures and takes into consideration the sensitivity of a water well or surface water intake, and the number, types, and proximity of potential sources of contamination to that well or intake. In the Source Water Assessment Program, an “Index and Overlay” system is used to assign numerical values to all criteria. The values for each criterion is totaled and divided by the number of square miles in the Source Water Protection Area. These values were then compared to determine the drinking water sources that are most susceptible to potential contamination.
<b>Promiscuous Dump</b>	Any collection of solid waste either dumped or caused to be dumped or placed on any property either public or private, whether or not regularly used, and not authorized by the administrative authority (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality).
<b>Recharge Area</b>	A land area in which water reaches the zone of saturation from surface infiltration (e.g., an area where rainwater soaks through the earth to reach an aquifer).
<b>Risk Ranking</b>	The potential for the source water of public drinking water supplies to be contaminated by potential sources of contamination within the protection area around a well or intake. The potential contamination susceptibility analysis for each water system is designated as high, medium, or low. The purpose of the susceptibility categorization is to compare all water systems in the

state and prioritize protection activities so that those with high rankings will be targeted for protection activities first, thereby reducing the potential for contamination.

**Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996**

This legislation requires each state to establish and implement a Source Water Assessment Program.

**Sanitary Landfill**

A landfill for the disposal of commercial or residential solid waste by deposit in a landfill in layers covered with suitable cover material of a depth and at a frequency adequate to control disease vectors and odors, in such a manner that minimizes the risk to human health and environment.

**Sensitivity for Ground Water**

The combined characteristics of well depth and age, soil recharge, and aquifer velocity. A numerical value is assigned to each factor and summed to assess the relative sensitivity of each well to contamination.

**Significant Potential Source Of Contamination**

A facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces compounds with potential for significant contaminating impact if released into the source water of a public water supply.

**Soil Recharge Potential**

The relative ability of a soil to transmit water (e.g. rainfall) downward to an aquifer or saturated zone.

**Source Water Assessment**

Delineation of a sensitive area around a drinking water well or intake, the inventory of that area for significant potential sources of contamination (SPSOCs), and analysis of susceptibility to contamination of wells and/or intakes in a water system.

**Source Water Assessment Program**

Section 1453 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 requires each state to develop a Source Water Assessment Program that will delineate areas providing drinking water for all public water supplies (ground water and surface water) and inventory delineated protection areas for potential contaminants that may have adverse effects on human health.

**Well**

Any excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or otherwise constructed for conveying ground water to the surface.