



CHAPTER IX

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CHAPTER X

Glossary

0.2-Percent-annual-Chance Flood

The flood that has a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood

The flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

100-year Floodplain

The area inundated by the 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood.

500-year Floodplain

The area inundated by the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood.

A-weighted

A weighting function applied to the noise spectrum, which approximates the response of the human ear.

Access (road)

Road used for passage to and along transmission line for purposes of construction and maintenance, or the road providing a means or entry to the power plant and associated facilities.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

An independent federal agency that provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies as they affect historic resources. The ACHP was established by the [National Historic Preservation Act](#) in 1966, with the goal of having federal agencies as responsible stewards of our Nation's resources when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only entity with the legal responsibility to balance historic preservation concerns with federal project requirements.

Aesthetic Quality

A perception of the beauty of a natural or cultural landscape.

Affected Environment

A geographic area and the associated natural, human and cultural resources that could be influenced by a proposed action. Also, the chapter in an environmental impact statement that describes the existing condition of the environment.

Aggregate

A mass or body of rock particles, mineral grains, or both.

Air Quality Standards

The level of pollutants prescribed by law or regulation that cannot be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area.

Alignment

The specific, surveyed route of a linear feature such as a transmission line or pipeline.

Alluvium (Alluvial Deposits)

A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar consolidated material deposited during comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water in the bed of the stream, river, or floodplain, or as a cone or fan at the base of a mountain slope.

Ambient (air)

That portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the general public has access.

Anaerobic

A condition in which molecular oxygen is absent from the environment.

Aquatic Animals

Animals that carry out respiration by means of a gill structure permitting gaseous exchange between the water and circulatory system.

Aquatic Flora

Plant life associated with the aquatic ecosystem, including, but not limited to, algae and higher plants.

Aquifer

A water-bearing layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel. A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to conduct groundwater and yield water to wells and springs.

Aquifer Boundary

A term that refers to the physical limit of an aquifer. Examples of aquifer boundaries include an area where an aquifer is exposed at the land surface, and an abrupt or gradational transition into an adjacent hydrogeologic unit.

Aquifer Test

A test performed to obtain data on the hydraulic characteristics and yield of an aquifer. An aquifer test is typically conducted by pumping a well at a constant rate for a specified period of time while monitoring the discharge rate and measuring water levels in the pumping well (see constant-discharge aquifer test). Water levels may also be measured in other nearby wells during the test. A constant-discharge aquifer test may be preceded by step-drawdown test (see definition).

Archaeology

The branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric or historic people and their culture through their material remains.

Archaeological Site

Any concentration of artifacts, features or structures that have been manufactured or modified through human action.

Architectural Resource

Any building, structure, landscape or district that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Artifact

Any object showing human workmanship or modification, from a prehistoric or historic culture.

Background

That portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis here is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

Base Flood

The flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Basin

A depression of the earth's surface, of tectonic origin, in which sediments have been deposited.

Bedrock

A general term for solid rock that lies beneath soil, loose sediments, or other unconsolidated material.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas, produced by incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels including gasoline, oil, and wood.

Centerline

A line along the approximate middle of the right-of-way of a linear feature such as a transmission line or pipeline.

Clean Water Act

Section 404 of this Act identifies conditions under which a permit is required for construction projects that result in the discharge of fill or dredged material into, or dredging of materials from, waters of the United States. Section 402 of this Act identifies conditions under which a permit is required for the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States.

Corridor

A continuous strip of land of defined width, through which a linear utility route (or routes) passes.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effort on the environment studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Critical Habitat

As defined under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat exists only after U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially designates it. Critical habitat are areas (1) within the geographic area occupied by a species at the time it is listed on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management consideration or protection; and (2) those specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by a species at the time it is listed essential to the conservation of the species.

Cultural Resources

Remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, as reflected in districts, sites, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features important in human events.

Cumulative Impact

The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Decibel (dB)

A measure of intensity, which defines a sound's loudness.

Decibel A-weighted (dBA)

A-weighted decibel, unit used to measure noise which best corresponds to the frequency response of the human ear.

Degradation

The wearing down or away, and general lowering or reduction, of the earth's surface by the processes of weathering and erosion.

Diversity

The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

Drawdown

The lowering of the water table of an unconfined aquifer or the potentiometric surface of a confined aquifer by pumping of groundwater from wells.

Ecosystem

A complex system composed of a community of plants and animals, and that system's chemical and physical environment.

Emergent (vegetation)

Vegetation with all or part of their vegetative and reproductive parts above the water.

Emission

Pollution discharged into the atmosphere from a source.

Endangered Species

Any plant or animal species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range as defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)

Section 7 of the ESA requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing an action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

Environment

The surrounding conditions, influences or forces that affect or modify an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

Environmental Assessment

An evaluation of existing resources and potential impacts on them from a proposed action or change to the environment.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A formal public document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of the proposed project or action and released for comment and review. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

- **Draft EIS**

The document prepared by a Federal agency or department or under Federal guidance that attempts to identify and analyze the environmental impacts of a proposed action and feasible alternatives.

- **Final EIS**

The Draft EIS is circulated for public comments that are addressed in the Final EIS.

Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)

Ensures that all people, regardless of race, national origin, or income, are protected from disproportionate impacts of environmental actions.

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.

Existing Noise Level

The noise resulting from the natural and mechanical sources and human activity considered to be usually present in a particular area.

Fault

A fracture or fracture zone in the earth's surface along which there has been displacement of the sides relative to one another parallel to the fracture.

Fauna

Animals collectively, especially the animals of a specified region or time.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)

Established public land policy for management lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably (1) management on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans prepared to guide management actions, (3) public lands for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources, (4) public lands retained in Federal ownership, and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

Floodplain

That portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is built of sediments and is inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

Floodway

The channel of a stream, plus any adjacent floodplain areas, that must be kept free of encroachment so that the base flood discharge can be conveyed without increasing the base flood elevations more than a specified amount.

Forage

All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals, which may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

Foreground

The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of one-half mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

Foreground/Middleground

The area visible from a travel route, residence or other use area to a distance of 3 to 5 miles (4.8 to 8.0 kilometers). The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

Fugitive Dust

Airborne solid particulate matter emitted from any source other than through a stack or vent.

Geology

The study of the planet earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the processes that have acted on these materials since its origin.

Groundwater

Water below the earth's surface that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. The area where water fills fractures and spaces in soil, sand, or

rocks is called the saturated zone. The top of this zone is called the water table. Groundwater is stored in, and moves slowly through, layers of soil, sand, and rocks called aquifers.

Habitat

The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

Hazardous Materials

Materials determined to be physical or chemical health hazards based on statistically significant evidence.

Herbaceous

Of, or having the nature of, an herb or herbs as distinguished from woody plants.

Hertz

A measure of frequency, which defines a sound's pitch.

Historic Property

Sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Preservation

The preservation of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects.

Hydraulic Conductivity

A hydraulic property of an aquifer that describes the rate groundwater can flow through a unit area of the aquifer under a hydraulic gradient of 1:1.

Hydraulic Connection

Two hydrogeologic units are considered to be hydraulically connected if they are adjacent to one another, both are saturated with groundwater, and groundwater can move from one unit to the other.

Hydric Soil

A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

Hydrogeologic Unit

A geologic formation, or part of a formation, with similar hydrologic characteristics.

Hydrology

The science that relates to properties, distribution, and circulation of water.

Hydrophytic Vegetation

Plant life growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content; plants typically found in wetlands and other aquatic habitats.

Impact

A modification in the status of the environment brought about by a proposed action.

- **Direct Impacts**

Caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)).

- **Indirect Impacts**

Caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth-rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Infrastructure

The basic facilities on which a community depends, such as schools, power plants, or transportation and communication systems.

Intermittent

A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and, stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

Jurisdictions

The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

 L_{eq}

The equivalent steady-state sound level; that is, the steady-state sound level of a stated period of time that contains the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same time period.

 $L_{eq}(h)$

The hourly value of L_{eq} .

Level of Service (LOS)

In transportation studies, a qualitative measure of traffic flow along a given road considering a variety of factors, including speed and travel time, traffic interruptions, and freedom to maneuver. LOSs are designated "A" through "F"; "A" being a free-flow condition with low volumes at high speeds and "F" being a congested condition of low speeds and stop-and-go traffic. Intermediate levels describe conditions between these extremes. A LOS below "C" involves unstable to forced traffic flow in which a driver's freedom to select a speed is restricted and in which traffic stoppages cause congestion.

Loam

A rich, permeable soil composed of clay, silt, sand, and organic matter.

Macroinvertebrate

Animals without backbones that are visible without a microscope; insects.

Mitigation

Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the federal government. The NAAQS are divided into primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare) from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

Federal undertakings must comply with Section 106 of NHPA, which mandates that potential effects on significant historic properties be considered prior to approval of such undertakings. Consideration of these resources is to be made in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other interested agencies and parties.

National Register of Historic Places

A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)

Smog formers, produced from burning fuels including gasoline and coal, that react with volatile organic compounds to form smog. NO_x also are major components of acid rain.

Noise

Loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or undesired sound that disrupts or interferes with normal human activities.

One-hundred-year Flood

A flood with a probability to occur once every one hundred years or a 1-in-100 chance of a flood occurring in a given year.

Ozone

Ozone (O₃) – A bluish, toxic gas with a pungent odor formed by three oxygen atoms rather than the usual two. Ozone occurs in the stratosphere and plays a role in filtering out ultraviolet radiation from the sun's rays. At ground level ozone is a major component of smog.

Particulate Matter (PM)

Tiny bits of solid material such as dust and soot released into and move around in the air. Particulates are produced by many sources, including burning of diesel fuels by trucks and buses, incineration of garbage, mixing and application of fertilizers and pesticides, road construction, industrial processes such as steel making, mining operations, agricultural burning (field and slash burning), and operation of fireplaces and wood stoves. Particulate pollution can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation and other health problems.

Pennsylvanian

A period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning from about 320 to 280 million years ago.

Perennial Stream

A stream or portion of a stream that flows throughout the year.

Plateau

An elevated tract of relatively level land, such as a tableland or mesa.

Policy

A guiding principle upon which is based a specific decision or set of decisions.

Proposed Action

Construction activities, facilities, routes, and other activities proposed by the applicant.

Public Involvement

The opportunity for participation by affected citizens in rulemaking, decisionmaking, and planning with respect to public lands, including public meetings or hearings held at locations near the affected lands, or advisory mechanisms, or other such procedures as may be necessary to provide public comment.

Purpose and Need

A statement that generally reflects what the applicant (or proponent) intends to accomplish by the proposed action.

Range

A large, open area of land over which livestock can roam and graze.

Raptor

A bird of prey with sharp talons and a strongly curved peak (e.g., hawk, owl, vulture, eagle).

Receiver/Receptor

Specific location of outdoor activity on any property that is considered to contain noise-sensitive land use.

Reconnaissance

Preliminary examination or survey of a land area.

Record of Decision

A document separate from, but associated with, an environmental impact statement that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the proposed action.

Recovery

The rise in water level in a pumping well and nearby observation wells after groundwater pumping has ceased.

Region

A large tract of land generally recognized as having similar character types and physiographic types.

Right of Way

Strip of land acquired by legal means, over which the power line and access roads would pass.

Riparian

An aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem that is associated with bodies of water, such as streams, lakes, or wetlands, or is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage.

Route

The general path of a linear feature such as a transmission line or pipeline and associated facilities.

Runoff

The total amount of water flowing in a stream. It includes overland flow, return flow, interflow, and base flow.

Scope

The range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement.

Scoping

A term used to identify the process for determining the scope of issues related to a proposed action and for identifying significant issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement.

Sediment

Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, that is transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Sensitivity

The state of being readily affected by the actions of external influence.

Slope

The degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal.

Solid Waste

Non liquid, non-soluble materials ranging from municipal garbage to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes also include sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes, and mining residues. Technically, solid waste also refers to liquids and gases in containers.

Step-Drawdown Test

A type of aquifer test performed by pumping a well at a several sequential rates to assess well efficiency and/or select the optimum pumping rate for a constant-discharge test.

Storage Coefficient

A hydraulic property of an aquifer that describes the amount of water released from storage during pumping.

Stormwater

Water from precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. Collectively, the draining water is called stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

A plan developed under the Clean Water Act that discusses measures taken to prevent the release of pollutants from stormwater runoff.

Strata

Plural of stratum. Horizontal layer of sedimentary rock.

Surface Water

Water that flows exclusively across the surface of the land from the point of application to the point of discharge.

Threatened Species

Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Traditional Cultural Resource

A historic resource that is significant because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Transmissivity

A hydraulic property of an aquifer that describes the rate of flow of groundwater through a unit width of the saturated thickness of the aquifer under a hydraulic gradient of 1:1.

Tributary

A stream or river that flows into a larger body of water.

Viewshed

Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance and existing cultural modifications.

Visual Resources

The visible physical features of a landscape (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that constitute the scenery of an area.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Compounds including organic chemicals (containing carbon), which are the basic chemicals found in living things and in products derived from living things, such as coal, petroleum, and refined petroleum products and volatile chemicals, which produce vapors readily. VOCs include gasoline, industrial chemicals, and solvents. Many VOCs also are hazardous air pollutants.

Wastewater

Water containing dissolved or suspended solids that has been used in homes, industries, and businesses that is not for reuse unless it is treated.

Water Table

The upper surface of the saturated portion of an aquifer.

Watershed

The land area that drains water to a particular stream, river, or lake. It is a land feature that can be identified by tracing a line along the highest elevations between two areas on a map, often a ridge. Large watersheds often contain numerous smaller subwatersheds.

Waters of the United States

All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to waters of the United States; and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

Wetlands

Those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.