

GLOSSARY

A

Accelerated erosion

Erosion caused or increased by human activity, such as agriculture or construction, as opposed to naturally occurring erosion

Applicant

Responsible party applying for a permit.

Apron

On a golf course, the fairway area in front of and around a green

Archaeology

The scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities; remains of the culture of a people.

Armor

To protect; protective covering; shield

B

Backfill

The process of filling a cavity with soil, gravel, rock, or other material

Bank

The part of the soil next to a stream, lake, or body of water where the soil elevation adjacent to the water is higher than the water level; also embankment

Barrier

A sand or gravel deposit in a streambed that is often exposed only during low water periods

BMP

Best Management Practice

Berm

A nearly horizontal part of the beach or backshore formed at the high water line by waves depositing material. Some beaches have no berms, others have one or several.

Best Management Practices

Structural, nonstructural, and managerial techniques recognized as the most effective and practical means to control non-point source pollutants, yet are compatible with the productive use of the resource to which they are applied.

BFM

Bonded Fiber Matrix

Biodegradable

Able to decompose when exposed to biological agents and soil chemicals

Blanket

Material placed on soil or a streambank to cover eroding soil

Bluff

A high, steep bank or cliff

Buffer

A small area of permanent vegetation bordering a field, stream, or lake or running through cropland, protecting the soil from wind and rain erosion, slowing water runoff, and trapping sediment and other pollutants

Bulkhead

A partition to retain or prevent sliding of the land, or to protect the upland against damage from wave action; also sea wall, retaining wall, revetment, or armor

BWSR

Board of Water and Soil Resources

C

CA

Certificate of Authority

CAAPP

Clean Air Act Permit Program

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

Channel

A natural or artificial waterway

Check dam

A temporary dam across a swale or gully to reduce gully erosion, or placed bank to bank downstream from a headcut; often used in series

Cistern

An artificial reservoir (as an underground tank) for storing liquids and especially water (as rainwater).

Clay

Cohesive soil whose individual particles are not visible to the unaided human eye (less than 0.002 mm in diameter). Clay can be molded into a ball that will not crumble.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

The compilation of federal regulations. Each area of regulation is contained in a separate volume (e.g., environmental regulations are compiled in volume 40, or 40 CFR). Each volume contains up to several hundred parts.

Compaction

The pressing together of soil particles into a more dense mass

CON

Certificate of Need

Contractor

Responsible party for construction and maintenance activity (Dairyland staff or consultant).

CPCN

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Critical habitat

When a species is proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (Act), we must consider whether there are areas of habitat we believe are essential to the species' conservation. Those areas may be proposed for designation as "critical habitat."

CRM

Cultural resource management

Curb inlet sediment barrier

Temporary barrier constructed from concrete block and gravel or gravel-filled sandbags, designed to reduce sediment discharged into storm drains by ponding the runoff and allowing sediment to settle out

Cutbank

The outside bank of a bend, often eroding and across the stream from a point bar

Cutoff

A channel cut across the neck of a bend

D

Dairyland

Dairyland Power Cooperative

Discharge

The volume of water passing through a channel during a given time, usually measured in cubic feet per second

Distressed streambank

A bank experiencing erosion or failure

DNR

Department of Natural Resources

DOC

Department of Commerce

DOT

Department of Transportation

Dredge material

Soil that is excavated from a stream channel, lake, or other body of water

Dust

Particulate pollution from construction sites, unpaved roads, or other disturbed areas

E

EA

Environmental Assessment

EIS

Environmental Impact Statement

Embankment

The part of the soil next to a stream, lake, or body of water where the soil elevation adjacent to the water is higher than the water level; usually referred to as the bank

EPA

Environmental Protection Agency

ER

Environmental Report

ERF

PSC's electronic regulatory filing system

Erosion control blanket

Blanket made from straw, coir, excelsior, or synthetic material and enveloped in plastic or biodegradable netting. Used to stabilize disturbed or highly erosive soils while vegetation is

established. Temporary blankets made from biodegradable or photodegradable components last several months to a year, and permanent blankets (also called turf reinforcement mats) can last for several years.

Erosion

Removal of soil particles by wind and water

ESA

Endangered Species Act

F

F

Fahrenheit

FAA

Federal Aviation Administration

FESOP

Federally Enforced State Operating Permit

Filter

Layer of fabric, sand, gravel, or graded rock placed between the bank revetment or channel lining and soil for one or more of three purposes: to prevent the soil from moving through the revetment; to prevent the revetment from sinking into the soil; and to permit natural seepage from the streambank, thus preventing buildup of excessive groundwater pressure

Floodplain

Level land that may be submerged by floodwaters; a plain built up by stream deposition.

FPPA

Farmland Protection Policy Act

G

Geotextile

Textile made from synthetic fibers, usually nonbiodegradable. Geotextiles can be woven or nonwoven and have varying degrees of porosity. They are used as moisture barriers, for separation or reinforcement of soils, for filtration, and for drainage.

Gravel

Soil particles ranging from 1/5 inch to 3 inches in diameter

Groundwater

Water that moves through the subsurface soil and rocks

H

HDPE

High density polyethylene

HVTL

High voltage transmission line

Hydric soils

A soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

Hydrophytic

Adapted to live in or on water surfaces, for example hydrophytic plants.

Hydroseeding

A method of seeding by mixing seed with water and fertilizer and then spraying the solution onto a seedbed

I

ILCS

Illinois Compiled Statutes

Impervious surface

Hard ground cover that prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil and increases runoff, such as asphalt, concrete, rooftops

Infiltration

The portion of rainfall or surface runoff that moves downward into the subsurface rock and soil

J

K

kV

kilovolt

L

LGU

Local government unit

Loam

An easily crumbled soil consisting of a mixture of clay, silt, and sand

M

Marsh

An area of soft, wet, or periodically submerged land, generally treeless and usually characterized by grasses and other low vegetation

MBTA

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

MPCA

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mulch

Any material used to cover a soil surface to reduce evaporation or prevent erosion

N

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, a two-phased national program to address nonagricultural sources of stormwater discharge and prevent harmful pollutants from being washed into local water bodies by stormwater runoff

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Navigable waters

Waterways of sufficient depth and width to handle a specified traffic load

NFS

National Forest Service

NHPA

National Historic Preservation Act

NOI

Notice of Intent

Nonpoint source pollution

Pollution originating from diffuse sources

NOT

Notice of Termination

Noxious weed

Legally, a noxious weed is any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property.

NPDES

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NPK

Nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium

NRC

National Response Center

NRCS

Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRHP

National Register of Historic Places

NWR

National Wildlife Refuge

O

OSA

Office of the State Archaeologist

P

pH

potential of hydrogen

Piping

Flow of groundwater through subsurface conduits in the bank

Point-source pollution

Direct pollution from industries and sewage; also called single-point-source pollution

Project Manager

Refers to the party (Dairyland staff or consultant) in charge of putting design plans together and approving changes to plan set.

PSC

Public Service Commission

Psi

Pounds per square inch

Public Land

Refers to all publicly owned land and includes land owned by the state, county, civil town, or municipality.¹

PUC

Public Utilities Commission

PVC

Polyvinyl chloride

R

Revegetation

Reestablishing vegetative cover on ground that has been disturbed, such as a construction site

Rock

Soil particles greater than 3 inches in diameter

ROW

Right-of-way

RUS

Rural Utility Service

S

Sand

Soil particles ranging from 0.05 to 2.0 mm in diameter; individual particles are visible to the unaided human eye

SDR

Standard Dimension Ration

Sediment

Soil particles that have been transported away from their natural location by wind or water action

Sediment pollution

The accumulation of soil particles on the channel bed and banks

Seedbed

A specially prepared area that has been made suitable for the sowing and germination of plant seeds.

¹ Wisconsin Historical Society. *Public Land Permit Form and Guidelines*. 2006.
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archaeology/osa/public-lands.asp> Retrieved July 14, 2006.

Sensitive resource

Aquifers that require the strongest level of protection.

Shelterbelt

Windbreak, is usually made up of one or more rows of trees or shrubs planted in such a manner as to provide shelter from the wind and to prevent soil from erosion.

Sheet flow

Flow that occurs overland in places where there are no defined channels, the flood water spreads out over a large area at a uniform depth. This also referred to as overland flow.

Shore

The narrow strip of land in immediate contact with the sea, or other body of water, including the zone between high and low water lines. A shore of unconsolidated material is usually called a beach.

Silt fence

Temporary sediment barrier consisting of filter fabric, sometimes backed with wire mesh, attached to supporting posts and partially buried

Silt

Noncohesive soil whose individual particles are not visible to the unaided human eye (0.002 to 0.05 mm). Silt will crumble when rolled into a ball.

Sod

Plugs, squares, or strips of turf with the adhering soil

Soil

Soil finer than sand but coarser than clay, but not so fine that it can remain suspended in water for long periods. The grain size is considered to be less than 0.0625 mm.

Soil horizon

Layer of soil developed in response to localized chemical and physical processes resulting from the activities of soil organisms, addition of organic matter, precipitation, and water percolation through the layer.

SPCC

Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure

Streambed

The bottom of a channel, creek, river, stream, or other body of water

Storm drain

A drainage system to collect stormwater runoff, separate from the sanitary sewer or wastewater system

Straw bale

Temporary barriers made of straw bales are sometimes installed across a slope or around the perimeter of a construction site to intercept and detain sediment transported by runoff

Streambank

The side slopes of a channel between which the streamflow is normally confined

Surface runoff

The portion of rainfall that moves over the ground toward a lower elevation and does not infiltrate the soil

Swale

A natural landscape feature or a human-created one that is designed to slow and capture runoff by spreading it horizontally across the landscape, facilitating its infiltration into the soil.

SWPPP

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

T

T&E

Threatened and endangered

Thatch

A layer of organic material between the crown of the plant and the true soil surface

Tillage

The practice of producing a rough soil surface to maintain surface residue, conserve soil moisture, and reduce wind erosion; also conservation tillage

Tiller

A plant that produces a new plant at the base of the parent plant

Toe (toe slope)

The break in slope at the foot of a bank where the bank meets the bed

Topography

The physical features of a geographic area, such as those represented on a map, taken collectively; especially, the relief and contours of the land.

U

UAP

Utility Accommodation Plan

U.S.

United States

USACE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USC

U.S. Code

USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

V

V:H

Vertical:horizontal

W

Water erosion

Removal of soil particles by water; the three types are sheet erosion, rill erosion, and gully erosion

Watershed

An area confined by drainage divides usually having only one streamflow outlet. In the UK the term "watershed" refers to what in the U.S. is called the drainage divide, and the term "catchment" refers to what in the U.S. is called a watershed.

WCA

Wetland Conservation Act

WPDES

Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System

Western

Formed in 1991, a corporation in which more than 220 members buy and sell electricity under a standardized contract. Operating and executive committees run the organization, but each member gets to vote on any changes in operating procedures. Action is taken by consensus of 90 percent of the voting members. Regulated and approved by FERC.

Wetlands

Swampy or marshy areas where water stands at or near the ground surface, forming a habitat for different types of plants and wildlife. Wetlands can act as reservoirs for flood control, taking in excess water from urban streams during rainy seasons.

Wind erosion

Removal of soil particles by wind, causing dryness and deterioration of soil structure; occurs most frequently in flat, dry areas covered by sands and loamy soils.