

Glossary of Water Regulation Terms¹

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The following list of terms is to be used in conjunction with all of the documents pertaining to Florida Water Regulation. It should facilitate the comprehension of federal, state and local water regulation laws.

Ad Valorem Tax: tax imposed on the value of property.

Appurtenant: any artificial improvements to a dam which might effect the safety of such dam, or when employed might affect the holding capacity of such dam or of the reservoir or impoundment created by such dam.

Aquifer: huge underground supply of water, in Florida stored in cavities of porous limestone.

Basin Boards: water management board with authority to develop water use plans.

Best Management Practices (BMP): management and cultural practices designed to efficiently use and conserve the land.

Blackwater: residential wastewater from toilets or kitchens.

Carcinogen: an agent that has been scientifically proven to cause cancer.

Closed System: system that exchanges neither matter nor energy with its surroundings.

Common Law: law determined by courts or custom, in contrast with statutory law or legislatively made law.

Contaminant: measurable amount of a foreign substance.

Effluent: liquid discharge from point source, sometimes refers to liquid that comes out of treatment plant after completion of treatment process.

Felony/Misdemeanor: felonies are usually punished with high fines and/or prison sentences, while misdemeanors are offenses lower than felonies and punishable by lesser fines or shorter imprisonment.

Graywater: residential wastewater from showers or washing machines.

Hazardous Waste: waste considered a threat to human health or the environment by EPA (does not include petroleum, although some petroleum products are hazardous wastes).

Injection Well: source of water or other liquids entering groundwater; can be very deep well or several types of runoff.

Injunctive Relief: court order to prohibit someone from doing some specified act or to command someone to undo some wrong or injury; example is a restraining order.

Joint and Several Liability: when a wronged party may sue one or more of the offending parties either

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separately or together (responsible together and individually).

Lien: a claim or charge on property for payment of some debt, obligation or duty.

Liability: the state of being bound or obliged in law to do, pay or make good on something.

Leaching: process by which nutrient chemicals or contaminants are dissolved and carried away by water or are moved into a lower layer of soil.

Mitigation: to make less severe, to reduce a penalty or punishment imposed by law.

Minimum Water Levels: level of water below which withdrawals would be harmful to the ecosystem or water resources; set by water management districts.

Negligence: failure to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances.

Negligence Per Se: a form of negligence that results from violation of a statute. Running a red light is negligence per se.

Nonpoint Source: nondiscernable source of pollution, i.e. agricultural runoff, urban runoff.

PCB: Polychlorinated Biphenyls, common human-produced carcinogen.

Pesticide: any substance used to regulate, prevent, repel or destroy any pest or plant.

Point Source: discernible channel through which wastes are discharged, i.e. pipes, sewers, channels.

Pollutant: presence of contaminants in water, soil, or air to such a degree that the use of the resource is impaired, includes gasoline or oil, any pesticide, or any ammonia or chlorine compound or derivative.

Reclamation: process of increasing mined land or other used resource to a higher value by physically changing the land, i.e. wetland reclamation.

Solid Waste: trash, sludge, some liquid and gaseous wastes; does not include domestic sewage, irrigation return flow, or pollutants included in NPDES permits.

Strict Liability: liability without fault, when one is responsible for all consequences of actions or employees regardless of one's fault.

Threatened/Endangered Species: species of plants or animals which are threatened with extinction or are in danger of extinction.

Toxic Substances: substances carrying a risk to produce birth defects, heart disease, emphysema or other health effects in humans or carrying a risk to injure the environment.

Wetlands: lands supporting vegetation suited to a wetland environment and/or covered periodically with water.

Zone of Discharge: predefined three dimensional area underground around a source of water going into the ground, usually has more relaxed water quality standards before the water reaches groundwater supply.