

## APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY/LIST OF ACRONYMS

**Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM):** A voluntary, multi-agency New York State program that provides farm operators with assistance in protecting land and water resources and sustaining their agricultural markets. Usually administered through the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**Berm:** A linear mound or series of mounds of earth, planted with, and maintained as, grass

**Best Management Practice (BMP):** (1) A measure that is implemented to protect water quality and reduce the potential for pollution associated with stormwater runoff. (2) Any program, technology, process, siting criteria, operating method, measure, or device that controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.

**Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD):** The quantity of largely organic materials present in a water sample as measured by a specific test. Although BOD is not a specific compound, it is defined as a conventional pollutant under the federal Clean Water Act. Excessive BOD monopolizes available oxygen within a waterbody, thereby depriving other living organisms – such as fish – of an adequate supply.

**Check Dam:** A small dam constructed in a gully to decrease the flow velocity, minimize channel scour, and promote deposition of sediment.

**Clean Water Act:** This is the principal law governing pollution of the nation's rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters. Originally enacted in 1948 as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 80-845), it was totally revised by amendments in 1972 that gave the Act its current name and shape (P.L. 92-500). The objective of the Act is the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The Act is implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with state and local governments. Programs in the Act have been primarily directed at managing point source pollution (wastes discharged from industrial facilities, sewage treatment plants, and municipal storm sewer systems). Agricultural activities have been less of a focus, but some may be affected by the Clean Water Act. Large confined animal feeding operations are treated like industrial sources and are subject to permit requirements. Programs to manage nonpoint source pollution (rainfall runoff from farms, rangelands, forests, etc.) may affect agriculture. However, irrigation return flows are specifically exempt from regulation. A program in the Act that regulates discharges of dredged and fill material into wetlands (Section 404) requires permits for activities on agricultural wetlands.

**Cluster Development:** A subdivision where houses are sited on smaller parcels of land, while the additional land that would have been allocated to individual lots is retained as open space

**CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program):** A voluntary USDA land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. Financial incentives are typically paid to the land owner to take viable farmland in sensitive areas out of production.

**Cut and Fill:** When the terrain is not flat, it may be necessary to level spots for a proposed road. This is done by taking soil (cut) from high areas and placing it (fill) in the low areas. Cuts and fills should be balanced to minimize the need for extra material and to maximize roadbed stability.

**Detention Area/Pond/Basin:** A low-lying area that is designed to temporarily hold a set amount of water while slowly draining it into another location (such as the ground or a receiving waterbody). Generally designed for purposes of flood control when large amounts of rain could cause flash flooding if allowed to flow unrestrained

**Drainage Tile:** Pipe-shaped clay tiles installed in below-grade trenches for gravity-rated drainage. PVC pipe is now commonly used for this purpose.

**Eutrophication:** A process whereby water bodies, such as lakes, estuaries, or slow-moving streams receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth (algae, periphyton attached algae, and nuisance plants weeds). This enhanced plant growth, often called an algal bloom, reduces dissolved oxygen in the water when dead plant material decomposes and can cause other organisms to die. Nutrients can come from many sources, such as fertilizers applied to agricultural fields, golf courses, and suburban lawns; deposition of nitrogen from the atmosphere; erosion of soil containing nutrients; and sewage treatment plant discharges.

**Gabion:** Steel wire-mesh basket to hold stones or crushed rock to protect a stream bank or bottom from erosion

**Impervious/Impermeable Areas:** Areas where the infiltration of water or other liquids (gasoline, oil, antifreeze, etc.) into the ground is difficult or impossible, contributing to increased runoff, especially of rain or melting snow (Examples include

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streets, sidewalks, paved driveways and parking lots, roofs, etc.)

**Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System (MS4):** A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems and municipal streets) that is owned or operated by the Federal government, a State, city, town borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater which is not a combined sewer and which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works as defined at 40 CFR 122.26.

**National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):** A provision of the Clean Water Act which prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by EPA, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government on an Indian reservation

**Non-point Source Water Pollution:** Pollution coming from many diffuse sources; caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up pollutants such as residential and agricultural chemicals, petroleum residue and de-icing materials from roads and parking lots, and dust and sediment, and deposits them into water bodies. (By contrast, "Point Source Water Pollution" is generally discharged from an outflow or pipe that should be reviewed and permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Point Source Pollution is typically thought of as "traditional" sources of pollution such as industrial waste and sewage).

**Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS):** Any system designed for the treatment of household sewage; also referred to as septic systems.

**Phase II Stormwater:** National approach to non-point source water pollution abatement which was mandated under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments. The process is an incremental approach (i.e. in phases) to addressing stormwater runoff from MS4s and construction activities. The program began in the most heavily urbanized areas of the country (Phase I) and will eventually be applied throughout most of the United States. Current Phase II communities are those with an MS4 which serves a population of 50,000 or more, as determined by Census 2000.

**Regulated MS4:** Those MS4 communities subject to Phase I and Phase II Stormwater rules and regulations, as required under the federal Clean Water Act.

**Retention Area/Pond/Basin:** Area intended to capture diverted stormwater runoff from streets and gutters and hold the runoff indefinitely. Secondary benefits include pollutant removal through settling and biological uptake as well as habitat creation for various types of organisms

**Return/Return Wall:** A facing, usually made of stone or concrete, installed to protect an eroding shoreline from the force of water (see also revetment)

**Revetment:** Sloping surface of stone, concrete or other material used to protect an embankment, natural coast or shoreline against erosion (see also return wall)

**Riparian Buffer:** Zone of vegetation along a river or stream that works to trap and filter pollutants and stabilize bank sediments

**Rip Rap:** Cobblestone or coarsely broken rock used for protection against erosion of an embankment, road ditch or gully

**Silviculture:** The science, art, and practice of caring for forests with respect to human objectives

**State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES):** In NYS, the enforcement mechanism of the NPDES (see above). In all cases, SPDES regulations must at a minimum meet NPDES regulations; in some instances, SPDES regulations are more stringent than NPDES regulations.

**Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP):** Permittees subject to Stormwater Phase II Regulations must develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan that details construction site stabilization methods. This plan should consist of at least five different phases: Planning and Organization, Assessment, BMP (Best Management Practices) Identification, Implementation, and Evaluation/Monitoring.

**Soil Bio-engineering:** Techniques used to stabilize land by using live plant materials to provide erosion control, slope and stream bank stabilization, landscape restoration, and wildlife habitat. Used alone or in conjunction with conventional engineering techniques

**Vernal Pool:** a temporary pool of water formed by the collection of rainwater or runoff in a depression such as a tip-up formation. Vernal pools serve as nurseries for frogs, salamanders and other types of herptafauna.

**Wing Wall:** Wall attached to the headwall of a culvert, set at an angle with the centerline, which prevents earth from spilling into a channel and improves hydraulic efficiency.

**Yarding system:** A method of log transport that allows for the harvesting of timber in an environmentally sound manner. A tractor with a mounted tower and winches moves through forests to preplanned locations, while a "yarding" cable is run down to an anchor tree. There are no wide landing areas to bulldoze and no excessive ground disturbances. Narrow skid trails replace the high disturbance skid roads of the past