

The field of groundwater hydrology and the area of Superfund remediation, like most professions, involve an alphabet soup of acronyms and technical jargon. What follows is a listing of commonly used acronyms and reference to terminology you may encounter.

µg/l	Micrograms per liter (generally equivalent to part per billion)
1,1,1-TCA	1,1,1-Trichloroethane
1,1-DCE	1,1-Dichloroethene
1,2-DCE	1,2-Dichloroethene
A.R.S.	Arizona Revised Statutes
AAAQGs	Arizona Ambient Air Quality Guidelines
AAC	Arizona Administrative Code
Administrative Order	A legal document signed by EPA directing an individual, business, or other entity to take corrective action or refrain from an activity. It describes the violations and actions to be taken and can be enforced in court. Such orders may be issued, for example, as a result of an administrative complaint whereby the respondent is ordered to pay a penalty for violations of a statute.
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADHS	Arizona Department of Health Services
ADWR	Arizona Department of Water Resources
Alluvial	Relating to and/or sand deposited by flowing water
AMA	Active Management Area
APP	Aquifer Protection Program
Aquifer	An underground geological formation or group of formations containing water. Aquifers are sources of groundwater for wells and springs.
ARARs	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
AWC	Arcadia Water Company
AAWC	Arizona American Water Company
AWQS	Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standards
bgs	Below ground surface

BWC	Berneil Water Company
CD	Consent Decree
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (or Superfund Legislation)
CFM	Chloroform
cfm	Cubic feet per minute
Cleanup	Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, or corrective action.
Confined Aquifer	An aquifer in which ground water is confined under pressure which is significantly greater than atmospheric pressure.
Consent Decree	A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment; or otherwise comply with EPA-initiated regulatory enforcement actions to resolve the contamination at the Superfund site involved. The consent decree describes the actions PRPs will take and may be subject to a public comment period.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGTF	Central Groundwater Treatment Facility
CIG	Community Involvement Group
COC	Chemical of Concern
COP	City of Phoenix
COS	City of Scottsdale
COT	City of Tempe
CWA	Clean Water Act
DNAPL	Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
Downgradient	The direction that groundwater flows; similar to "downstream" for surface water.

DWS	Drinking Water Standards
Enhanced Monitoring Program	Components of the Required Monitoring Program plus voluntary enhancements implemented by the PCs
Enhanced Remedy	Components of the Required Remedy plus voluntary remedial actions implemented by the PCs
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Extraction Well	A discharge well used to remove groundwater or air.
Feasibility Study (FS)	A Feasibility Study is a description and analysis of potential clean-up alternatives for a Superfund site. The Feasibility Study usually recommends selection of a cost-effective alternative.
FR	Federal Register
Freon-11	Trichloroflouromethane
FSA	Feasibility Study Addendum
FSP	Field Sampling Plan
ft/day	Foot per day
GAC	Granular Activated Carbon
GC/MS	Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
GlaxoSmithKline	GlaxoSmithKline Corporation
GMA	Groundwater Management Act
gpd/ft	gallons per day per foot
gpd/ft ²	gallons per day per square foot
GPI	Gutierrez Palmenberg, Inc.
gpm	gallons per minute
gpm/ft	gallons per minute per foot
GPS	Global Positioning System
Granite Reef	SRP production well 23.6E,6N

Well	
GWET	Groundwater Extraction and Treatment
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollution
HBGLs	Health-Based Guidance Levels
HSP	Health and Safety Plan
IBW	Indian Bend Wash
LAU	Lower Alluvial Unit
lbs	Pounds
lbs/day	Pounds per day
lbs/hr	Pounds per hour
LF	LevineFricke
LFR	LFR, LevineFricke (formerly LevineFricke)
M&A	Errol L. Montgomery & Associates, Inc.
MAU	Middle Alluvial Unit
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water delivered to any user of a public system. MCLs are enforceable standards that are conservatively set to protect the public against substances that may be harmful if consumed over a lifetime.
MCAPCD	Maricopa County Air Pollution Control Department
MCHD	Maricopa County Health Department
MCLGs	Maximum Contaminant Level Goals
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram
mg/kg-day	Milligrams per kilogram per day
mg/l	Milligrams per liter (generally equivalent to part per million)
mg/m ³	Milligram per cubic meter
Miller/McDowell	SRP production well 22.5E,6N

Well	
Miller/Roosevelt Well	SRP production well 22.5E,5.5N
Model	Three-dimensional groundwater fate and contaminant transport model for the FSA
Monitoring Well	A well used to obtain water quality samples or measure groundwater levels.
Motorola	Motorola, Inc.
MPL	Minimum Pumping Level
MRL	Method Reporting Limit
MRTF	Miller Road Treatment Facility
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NCP	National Contingency Plan
ND	Not Detected; below the analytical method quantification level
NIBW	North Indian Bend Wash
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OBP	Operating and Blending Plan
Operable Unit	Term for each of a number of separate activities undertaken as part of a Superfund site cleanup.
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OU I	Operable Unit I (Scottsdale Operable Unit)
OU II	Operable Unit II
Participating Group, PG	Motorola, Siemens, GlaxoSmithKline, and Salt River Project

PCE	Tetrachloroethylene
PCs	Participating Companies (Motorola, Siemens, GlaxoSmithKline)
PID	Photoionization Detector
Plume	A visible or measurable discharge of a contaminant from a given point of origin. Can be visible or thermal in water, or visible in the air as, for example, a plume of smoke.
POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
ppb	Parts per billion
ppbv	Parts per billion by volume
ppm	Parts per million
ppmv	Parts per million by volume
PQGW	Poor Quality Groundwater Withdrawal
PRGs	Preliminary Remediation Goals
PRP	Potentially Responsible Parties
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
PVWC	Paradise Valley Water Company (now Arizona American Water Company)
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RA	Remedial Action
RAO	Remedial Action Objective
RBCA	Risk-Based Corrective Action
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Remedial Investigation	An in-depth study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site; establish site cleanup criteria; identify preliminary alternatives for remedial action; and support technical and cost analyses of alternatives. The remedial investigation is usually done with the feasibility study. Together they are usually referred to as the "RI/FS."

Remediation	Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site
Required Monitoring Program	Groundwater monitoring requirements established in the OU I and OU II CDs
Required Remedy	Remedial actions specified by EPA in OU I and OU II CDs
RI	Remedial Investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision
SAP	Sampling and Analysis Plan
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
Semi-Confined Aquifer	An aquifer partially confined by soil layers of low permeability through which recharge and discharge can still occur.
Siemens	Siemens Corporation
Site	North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site
Soil Gas	Gaseous elements and compounds in the small spaces between particles of the earth and soil. Such gases can be moved or driven out under pressure.
Source Area	The zone of highest soil or groundwater concentrations, or both, of the chemical of concern.
SOW	Statement of Work
SRLs	Soil Remediation Levels
SRP	Salt River Project
SRPMIC	Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community
SRVWUA	Salt River Valley Water User’s Association
SVE	Soil Vapor Extraction
SVM	Soil Vapor Monitoring

SVME	Soil Vapor Monitoring/Extraction
TBC	To Be Considered
TBD	Technical Background Document
TCA	Trichloroethane
TCE	Trichloroethene, trichloroethylene
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TSD	Treatment, Storage, and Disposal
U.S.	United States
UAU	Upper Alluvial Unit
UIC	Underground Injection Control
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USC	United States Code
USCS	Unified Soil Classification System
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UV/Ox	Ultraviolet/oxidation
Vadose Zone	The zone between land surface and the water table within which the moisture content is less than saturation (except in the capillary fringe) and pressure is less than atmospheric. Soil pore space also typically contains air or other gases. The capillary fringe is included in the vadose zone.
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
Volatile Synthetic Organic Chemicals	Chemicals that tend to volatilize or evaporate
WQARF	Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (the Arizona Superfund Program)