

seq	Context	Term or Word	Definition, Part 1	Definition, Part 2	Definition source	comments
1	data	Acceptance Criteria	Criteria that address the adequacy of existing information	These criteria often apply to data drawn from existing sour	EPA	
2	Measurement System	Accuracy	The extent of agreement between an observed value (measurement result) and the accepted, or true, value of the characteristic being measured.	Sources of inaccuracy include systematic measurement error (bias) such as instrument drift, instrument fouling, and operator's behavior factors (e.g., not waiting for reading stabilization)	CWT	
3	Measurement System	Accuracy Check	a.k.a. verification Comparison of the reading, or output, of a field measurement device with a value believed the "true" value, without adjustments of the reading.	The "true" value may be represented by natural conditions (e.g., freezing point) or by an accepted Standard.	CWT	
4	Environmental Monitoring	Activity (Monitoring)	Type of data collection effort; can be observation, field measurement, or sample.	Equivalent to Field Activity in ESAR.	CWT	
5	Environmental conditions	Ambient	Pertaining to the current environmental conditions, i.e., at the time of observation.		CWT	
6	Environmental Monitoring	Antifouling	A process of preventing or inhibiting the growth of biofouling organisms on submerged sensors and equipemnt		RE	
7	Environmental conditions	Background (concentrations)	Conditions that are believed to be representing the naturally-occurring concentrations of the analytes of interest.		RK	
8	Hydrology	Base flow	sustained flow of a stream in the absence of direct runoff. It includes natural and human-induced streamflows. Natural base flow is sustained largely by ground-water discharges		USGS3	
9	channel	Bedrock	the solid rock beneath the soil and superficial rock.	A general term for solid rock that lies beneath soil, loose sediments, or other unconsolidated material.	USGS3	
10	Measurement System	Bias	The systematic or persistent distortion of a measured value from its true value	Note: Accuracy and Bias are not interchangeable.	NEMI	
11	general	Biofilm	A layer of microorganisms and their products which adheres to solid surfaces.		RK	
12	Measurement System	Biofouling	A layer of microorganisms and their products that adhere onto or the area of the sensing elements of submerged sensors and impact the data quality.		RE	
13	general	Brackish water	water that contains dissolved matter at an approximate concentration range from 1000 to 30,000 mg/L.		ASTM	
14	Measurement System	Calibration	Comparison of a measurement standard, instrument, or item with a standard or instrument of higher accuracy to detect and quantify inaccuracies and to report or eliminate those inaccuracies by adjustments The action of adjusting the readings of a probe or other direct-reading instrument to have them match a "true" value as represented by known natural conditions or by a Standard Solution.	[Note: this definition is a mix of accuracy check and calibration adjustment].	EPA	
15	Measurement System	Calibration Adjustment		Calibration is always preceded by an Accuracy Check.	CWT	
16	Physical habitat	Centroid	Centroid is defined as that point in the increment at which discharge is equal on both sides of the point	It is often the most representative spot in the channel.	USGS	
17	Environmental Monitoring	Characteristic	a catch-all word for: physical attribute, analyte, constituent, substance, property, etc; equivalent to the (misused) sense of the word "parameter". A standard statistical measure of the relative variation of a distribution or set of data, defined as the standard deviation divided by the mean. It is also called the relative standard deviation (RSD).	Characteristics include properties such acidity (pH) or electrical conductivity, particulates such as suspended solids or bacteria, and analytes such as ammonia or heavy metals. The CV can be used as a measure of the precision within and between laboratories, or among replicates for each treatment concentration	CWT	
18	statistics	Coefficient of Variation (CV)			EPA	
19	general	Concentrated	Solution prepared at "full strength", i.e., with a lot of substance in a small amount of water (or other solvent).	CWT		
20	Environmental conditions	Conductivity	A measure of the ability of an aqueous solution to carry an electric current.	This ability depends on the presence of ions; on their total concentration, mobility, and valence; and on the temperature of measurement. Customarily reported in micromhos/cm (millisiemens/cm in the International System of Units).	SMWW	
21	statistics	Confidence Interval	An interval estimate of a population parameter with a known probability that the population value of interest will be included in the interval.	For example, a 95% confidence interval estimate of a population mean is an interval that will contain the true value of the mean in 95% of all samples that could be selected with a given sampling design.	EPA	
22	statistics	Confidence Limits	The upper and lower values of the confidence interval.		CWT	
23	Hydrology	Confluence	The flowing together of two or more streams; the place where a tributary joins the main stream.		USGS4	
24	Measurement System	Contamination	Inadvertent addition of an analyte to a sample through introduction of analyte residues from the sampling equipment, sample container, etc. into the sample.	Contamination may cause false positive results or higher result values.	CWT	
25	Environmental Monitoring	Continuous Monitoring (a.k.a. time series)	A methodology that utilizes sensors connected to data loggers and provides multiple Results of a given characteristic, spaced at pre-determined time intervals.	A quantity specified at a particular instant in time measured with sufficient frequency (defined interval) to exhibit serial correlation among the data.	CWT	
26	Physical habitat	Crossline (Channel)	A neutral term to describe a line that crosses the stream channel, usually at a right angle to a specific linear entity (e.g., left bank, Thalweg, etc.). The totality of features and characteristics of data that bears on their ability to satisfy a given purpose; the sum of the degrees of excellence for factors related to data (EMAP, 2002).		RK	
27	data	Data quality			NWQMC	
28	Measurement System	Data Quality Indicators	The quantitative statistics and qualitative descriptors used to interpret the degree of acceptability or utility of data to the user.	The principal data quality indicators are bias, precision, accuracy (bias is preferred), comparability, completeness, representativeness, and sensitivity.	EPA	

29	Measurement System	Data Quality Objectives (DQO)	In the context of water quality monitoring, the goals that are determined by a monitoring or interpretive program to be essential to the usefulness of the data.	They would include, but not be limited to, the specification or delineation of the limits of precision and bias of measurements, the completeness of sampling and measurements, the representativeness of sites relative to program objectives, the validity of data, and so forth.	EPA Watershed Academy
30	Environmental Monitoring	Data Quality Objectives (DQO) Process	A systematic planning tool based on the scientific method that identifies and defines the type, quality, and quantity of data needed to satisfy a specified use.	DQOs are the quantitative and qualitative outputs from the DQO process.	EPA
31	general	Data Users	The group(s) that will be applying the monitoring results for decision making or other purposes.	Data users can include the monitors themselves as well as government agencies, schools, universities, businesses, watershed organizations, and community groups.	CWT
32	Measurement System	Data Validation	The process of checking all documentation to determine if the test or analysis used to generate the data was valid, i.e., the measurement system worked within its performance criteria (including lack of contamination).		CWT
33	Measurement System	Data Verification	the process of evaluating the completeness, correctness, and conformance/compliance of a specific data set against the method, procedural, or contractual specifications.	[this includes comparisons to the Project's data quality objectives, RK]	EPA
34	Measurement System	Decontamination	The action of cleaning sampling equipment and sample containers to avoid carry over of contamination from non-sample sources into a sample.	This Term is also used in reference to cleaning probes, ice chests, vehicles, etc.	CWT
35	data	Defensible	The ability to withstand any reasonable challenge related to the veracity or integrity of project and laboratory documents and derived data.		EPA
36	Measurement System	Deionized Water	Water that has been passed through a column containing a matrix that binds and removes ions, or has been subject to removal of salts by reverse osmosis.	This is different from Distilled Water	CWT
37	Unattended sensors	Deployment Episode	The time period between the placement of a sensor in situ and the retrieval of that sensor.		RK
38	Measurement System	Detection Limit (General)	The lowest concentration of a target analyte that a given method or piece of equipment can reliably ascertain and report as greater than zero. .	The detection limit (as well as a formal reporting limit) is determined by running a formal protocol, it is analyte-specific and method-specific, and may also be matrix-dependent or laboratory-dependent	CWT
39	general	Discharge (a.k.a Flow or Stream Flow)	A volume of fluid passing a point per unit of time, commonly expressed in cubic feet per second, millions gallons per day, or gallons per minute.		USGS3
40	Environmental conditions	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	molecular oxygen (oxygen gas) dissolved in water.		USGS2
41	Environmental conditions	Dissolved Solids	The total amount of dissolved material, organic and inorganic, contained in water or wastewater. Measurements are expressed as ppm or mg/l.		CWT
57	Environmental Monitoring	Habitat	A place where the physical and biological elements of ecosystems provide a suitable environment, and the food, cover, and space resources needed for plant and animal existence (USFS).		NWQMC
58	channel	Habitat Unit	(a.k.a Channel Geomorphic Unit, CGU) - A portion of the stream channel that can be delineated and categorized as a distinct pool, riffle, run, glide, or other physical entity with defined borders and attributes.	The variety and sequence of habitat units is a very important factor influencing fisheries habitat value, in conjunction with shelter elements etc.	CWT
59	Hydrology	Hydrograph	Graph showing variation of water elevation, velocity, streamflow, or other property of water with respect to time.		USGS4
60	Hydrology	Instantaneous discharge	The volume of water that passes a point at a particular instant of time.		USGS4
61	Measurement System	Instrument	A measurement device: a probe, electrode, reagent kit, indicator strip, or any other type of device used for field or laboratory measurements.		CWT
62	Measurement System	Instrument Maintenance	cleaning and calibrating on routine visits		RK
63	Measurement System	Instrument Service	Instrument repair/part replacement when needed, or a periodic/annual scheduled event.	Instrument service is often done by the manufacturer and include re-conditioning, part replacements, and special testing of the instrument	RK
64	Hydrology	Intermittent stream	A stream that flows only when it receives water from rainfall runoff or springs, or from some surface source such as melting snow.		USGS4
65	general	Interstitial Water	Water occupying space between sediment or soil particles (syn. Pore water)		ASTM
66	general	Ionic Strength	A measure of the amount of dissolved positive and negative ions in a solution.	Solutions with high ionic strength have higher concentrations of ions and usually have higher buffer capacity.	RK
67	channel	Levee	a natural or manmade earthen barrier along the edge of a stream, lake, or river.	Land alongside rivers can be protected from flooding by levees.	USGS3
68	statistics	Mean	The mean is the average of an entire population.	In practical terms, we cannot know the true mean. The estimated mean is called the sample mean.	VBC
69	Measurement System	Measurement	A set of operations having the object of determining a numeric value		ASTM
70	Measurement System	Measurement Device	(a.k.a. Instrument) A device capable of quantifying one or more environmental characteristic and providing a numeric Result.	Field measurement devices range from simple devices (e.g., rulers), through wet-chemistry kits, to highly sophisticated multi-parameter data loggers.	RK
71	project	Measurement Quality Objectives	Statements about the tolerated error and desired sensitivity of a measurement. MQOs are a subset of Data Quality Objectives (DQOs).	They include extent of values for the data quality indicators called of precision, accuracy, detection limit, and resolution.	CWT
72	Measurement System	Measurement Quality Outcomes	Outcomes (results) of quality checks done assess accuracy, precision, resolution, detection limit, and sample integrity.		RK
73	Measurement System	Measurement Range	The range of reliable measurement values that can be generated by a given instrument or measuring device.		CWT
74	Environmental Monitoring	Measurement System	Procedures and Instruments used to generate environmental monitoring numerical Results.	Measurement systems range from very simple devices to elaborate sequences of sample collection, preparation, and analysis. Examples: bulb thermometer, pH meter, EPA method 8080	RK

75	data	Measurement traceability	a property of the result of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons all having stated uncertainties.		ASTM
76	statistics	Median	The middle or central value in a distribution of data ranked in order of magnitude. The median is also known as the 50th percentile.		USGS4
77	Environmental Monitoring	Medium	The type of material (water, sediment, tissue, or biota) in which the analyte of interest may be contained.	Air, soil, food, and other substances are also referred to as Medium.	CWT
78	database	Metadata	Information that describes the data and the quality criteria associated with their generation.	Data about data. Information that answers the "who, what, when, where, why, how, and how good" questions about the data	EPA+CWT
79	general	Monitoring	Periodic or continuous collection of data (measured parameters) using consistent methods to determine the status (or condition) of environmental or socio-economic characteristics.	EPA Watershed Academy The product can be a categorical observation, an estimate, a measurement, a count, or a sample in a container.	
80	Environmental Monitoring	Monitoring Activity (STORET)	A noun that defines the product of an [evaluative, measured, or collected] monitoring action.		RK
81	Hydrology	Monitoring well	A well designed for measuring water levels and testing ground-water quality.		USGS4
82	Environmental Monitoring	Monument (fixture)	A Monument is an man-made object created to mark a specific spot permanently and has been constructed, installed, or painted at a permanent location, often outside the wetted channel.		RK
83	Hydrology	Mouth	The place where a stream discharges to a larger stream, a lake, or the sea.		USGS4
84	Measurement System	NIST-Certified	An instrument (usually a thermometer) that has been tested and certified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology or its affiliates.		
85	Measurement System	NIST-Traceable	An instrument (usually a thermometer) that has been tested and certified by comparison to a NIST-certified instrument.		
86	Environmental Monitoring	Outfall	the place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges; the outlet or structure through which reclaimed water or treated effluent is finally discharged to a receiving water body.		USGS3
87	Environmental Monitoring	Outlier	Measurement or analytical Result that differs radically from other data in the same data set, and is therefore suspect or thought to be a poor representation of that environment.		CWT
88	Environmental Conditions	Oxidation-reduction potential (ORP)	a.k.a REDUCTION-OXIDATION POTENTIAL (as Eh)—A measure of the equilibrium potential, relative to the standard hydrogen electrode, developed at the interface between a noble metal electrode and an aqueous solution containing electroactive redox species		USGS
89	Environmental conditions	Oxygen demand Parameter	the amount of oxygen required, under the specified test conditions for the oxidation of waterborne organic and inorganic matter.		ASTM
90	Environmental Monitoring		(see Water Quality Parameters)		
91	general	Particulate matter	that nonliquid matter, exclusive of gases, which is heterogeneously dispersed in water.		ASTM
92	Hydrology	peak flow	the maximum instantaneous discharge of a stream or river at a given location. It usually occurs at or near the time of maximum stage.		USGS3
93	Environmental Conditions	Percent Saturation	Amount of gas (e.g., oxygen) that is dissolved in the water, compared to the maximum it could hold at that temperature.		CWT
94	Hydrology	Perennial stream	A stream that normally has water in its channel at all times.		USGS4
95	Measurement System	Performance Criteria	A set of desired quality check outcomes within which a given measurement system should perform.	Example: pH probe drift should not exceed 0.3 pH unit during a deployment episode. Measured on a scale of 1.0 (acidic) to 14.0 (basic); 7.0 is neutral. These numbers are the negative base-ten logarithm of hydrogen-ion activity of a solution, in moles per liter.	RK
96	Environmental conditions	pH	Numerical measure of the hydrogen ion concentration used to indicate the alkalinity or acidity of a solution.		CWT
97	general	Plumber's Putty	Pliable, non-water soluble material used by plumbers to exclude water from selected compartments or to prevent pipe leakage		CWT
98	Measurement System	Precision	A measurement of agreement among repeated measurements of the same property under identical, or substantially similar, conditions; expressed generally in terms of the standard deviation.		EPA
99	Measurement System	Probe	The physical structure that includes a given Sensor or more than one Sensor. Some probes are standalone measurement devices, but most are connected to another unit for the purpose of display, or logging, of the measurement Results.		RK
100	Environmental Monitoring	Project	A data collection effort, performed by one or more organizational entities, which is limited in space and time.		CWT
101	general	Protocols	A catch-all name for an array of guidance materials or user's manuals developed to instruct the users on a management process or on monitoring procedure.	Protocols often include introductory information, references to specific Projects, or other background facts, but their core is usually a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with detailed step-by-step instructions for a specific measurement device.	CWT
102	general	Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)	A formal document describing in comprehensive detail the necessary quality assurance procedures, quality control activities, and other technical activities that need to be implemented to ensure that the results of the work performed will satisfy the stated performance or acceptance criteria.		EPA
103	general	Quality Control	The operational techniques and the activities used to fulfill requirements of quality		USGS1
104	Measurement System	Random Error	A departure from the 'true' value caused by randomly-effective factors, either environmental or pertaining to the measurement device itself	The scatter of repeated measurements about the average of all of the measurements (1f).	RK

105	Hydrology	Rating curve	A drawn curve showing the relation between gage height and discharge of a stream at a given gaging station.		USGS3
106	data	Raw Data	Results of individual measurements of a given property, often used as a group to compute an endpoint.	Example: measurements of current velocity, stream width, and stream depth that are used to compute flow discharge in units of volume per time.	CWT
107	channel	Reach (stream)	A protocol-specific term that describes a length of stream at the 'sampling site' scale, where all monitoring activities of one Station Visit occur.	A Reach may have a fixed length, or its length can be determined as a certain multiplier of average width, or determined as an aggregate of certain flow habitat units.	RK
108	Environmental monitoring	Real-Time	Refers generally to systems that respond (almost) immediately or synchronously to external events.		OGC
109	Environmental conditions	Reduction-Oxidation Potential (as Eh) (Redox or ORP):	A measure of the equilibrium potential, relative to the standard hydrogen electrode, developed at the interface between a noble metal electrode and an aqueous solution containing electroactive redox species		USGS2
110	Measurement System	Relative Percent Difference (RPD)	An expression of precision based on how close two measurements are to each other. (a.k.a Coefficient of Variation, %CV) - The standard deviation within a group of values derived from repetitive measurements, expressed as a percentage of the mean of these values.	RPD is the difference between the two values expressed as a percentage of the average of these values.	CWT
111	Measurement System	Relative Standard Deviation (RSD, a.k.a %CV)			CWT
112	Measurement System	Repeatability	The degree of agreement between independent test results produced by the same analyst, using the same test method and equipment on random aliquots of the same sample within a short time period.		EPA
113	Environmental Monitoring	Representativeness	The degree to which a measured Result realistically portrays the conditions in the environment being monitored. (of field measurements) The degree of agreement between two independent measurements conducted in situ by a given Instrument at the same spot and the same time.	It is a function of why, where, and when this Results was measured; the considerations used to select them can be communicated with other metadata.	CWT
114	Measurement System	Reproducibility		Reproducibility is Instrument-specific and is usually reported as the Relative Percent Difference (RPD).	RK
115	Measurement System	Resolution	The smallest increment that can be discerned on the scale of a measuring device, or the capability of a method to discriminate between measurement responses.		CWT
116	data	Result	The outcome of a measurement or an observation.	Results can be expressed in numbers, words ("verbal categories"), or ranges or numbers ("numeric range categories").	CWT
117	channel	Riparian Zone	The vegetative area on each bank of a body of water.		CWT
118	Measurement System	Round-Robin Study	The process where a set of replicate samples are sent to multiple labs to assess concentration.	This type of study is employed to certify reference materials or to assess inter-lab and inter-method precision.	VBC
119	Hydrology	Runoff	Excess rainwater or snowmelt that is transported to streams by overland flow, tile drains, or ground water.		USGS4
120	Environmental conditions	Salinity	A measure of the amount of salts dissolved in water. A small portion of water or other substance taken at a given place and time for analysis; it is assumed to be representative of the whole body of water or the rest of the substance within specified statistical limit. (British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, 2001).	Generally reported as "parts per thousand" (i.e., grams of salt per 1,000 grams of water) and abbreviated as "ppt" or ‰. Estuaries vary in salinity from 0 ppt to 34 ppt depending on tides and river inputs.	CWT
121	Environmental Monitoring	Sample (narrow sense)	An untrue representation of the population being sampled due to failure to adjust sampling frequency to the relative distribution of sub-population within the population being sampled.		NWQMC
122	Environmental Monitoring	Sampling Bias			CWT
123	Sediment	usually applied to material in suspension in water or recent	In the plural the word is applied to all kinds of deposits from the waters of streams, lakes, or seas.		USGS3
124	Measurement System	Sensitivity	The capability of a method or instrument to discriminate between measurement responses representing different levels of a variable of interest.	[this is resolution, one aspect of sensitivity, RK]	EPA
125	Measurement System	Sensor	A device capable of sensing the magnitude of a given physical or chemical characteristic in the environment.	Sensors are associated with electrical circuits of sorts and are usually packaged in Probes. Examples: thermistors, pH electrodes, photocells, etc.	RK
126	data	Significant Digits	Digits in a numerical Result showing a numeric value that is meaningful.	In most cases three significant digits are fine, e.g., 10.4 mg/l DO (all three digits are significant) or 1560 uS (the first three are significant, the last one provides the order of magnitude).	CWT
127	channel	Sinuosity	The ratio of the channel length between two points on a channel to the straight-line distance between the same two points; a measure of meandering.		USGS4
128	Measurement System	Sonde	A common name for a cylindrical, watertight chamber that houses programmable data logging software inside it and provides watertight connection ports to an array of probes.		CWT
129	Environmental conditions	Specific Conductance	a measure of the ability of water to conduct an electrical current, as measured with, e.g., a 1-cm cell, and expressed in units of electrical conductance, i.e., Siemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius.	Specific conductance can be used for approximating the total dissolved solids content of water by testing its capacity to carry an electrical current. [edited by RK]	USGS3
130	general	Specifications	a set of descriptors provided by the manufacturer of a device.	Example: dimensions, range, or temperature working conditions of a pH sensor.	RK
131	Hydrology	Stage	The height of the water surface above an established datum plane, such as in a river above a predetermined point that may (or may not) be near the channel floor.	USGS4	

132	statistics	Standard Deviation	A measure of the dispersion or imprecision of a sample or population distribution as expressed as the square root of the variance and has the same unit of measurement as the mean.	The standard deviation is calculated as the square root of the variance.	EPA
133	Measurement System	Standard Material	An umbrella term for the following: a Standard solution (e.g., pH standard buffer), or a certified device (e.g., NIST thermometer), or natural conditions that reflect a known value (e.g., water or humid air saturated with oxygen; freezing point).		CWT
134	general	Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	A written document that details the method for an operation, analysis, or action with thoroughly prescribed techniques and steps and that is officially approved as the method for performing certain routine or repetitive tasks.		EPA
135	Measurement System	Standard pH Buffer	A well-buffered solution used for calibration or for accuracy checks of pH measuring devices (also see "Standard Solution" below).		CWT
136	Measurement System	Standard Solution	A solution containing a known concentration of a substance, prepared or purchased for use in the field or in the analytical laboratory.	It is used for accuracy checks and calibration adjustments of instruments or lab procedures.	CWT
137	project	Station Visit	A station occupation event in which one Team performs one or several Monitoring Activities within one site or stream reach	A Station visit is a natural unit of representativeness in space and time	RK
138	Limnology	Stratification	The formation and maintenance of two distinct layers of water, e.g., hot and cold layers in a lake (usually during summer), or fresh water overlying salt water in estuaries.		CWT
139	Hydrology	Stream	a general term for a body of flowing water; natural water course containing water at least part of the year.	In hydrology, it is generally applied to the water flowing in a natural channel as distinct from a canal.	USGS3
140	Hydrology	Stream order	Stream order - A ranking of the relative sizes of streams within a watershed based on the nature of their tributaries. The smallest unbranched tributary is called first order, the stream receiving the tributary is called second order, and so on.		USGS4
141	Hydrology	Streamflow	the water discharge that occurs in a natural channel.	A more general term than runoff, streamflow may be applied to discharge whether or not it is affected by diversion or regulation.	USGS3
142	channel	Substrate	The surface beneath a wetland, lake, or stream in which organisms grow or to which organisms are attached.		USGS
143	general	Surveillance	the act of maintaining supervision or vigilance over a well-specified portion of water so that detailed information is provided concerning the state of that portion.		ASTM
144	Environmental conditions	Suspended Sediments	Particles of soil, sediment, living material, or detritus suspended in the water column		CWT
145	Environmental monitoring	Telemetry	Telemetry refers to wireless communications (i.e. using a satellite or radio system to implement the data link), but can also refer to data transferred over other media, such as a telephone or computer network or via an optical link.		CD
146	Environmental conditions	Temperature	a measure of warmth or coldness of a substance with reference to a standard value		USGS2
147	channel	Thalweg	The line formed by connecting points of minimum streambed elevation (deepest part of the channel).		USGS
148	general	Tide	The alternating rise and fall of the ocean and estuary surface, caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon upon the earth.		CWT
149	Environmental Conditions	Transparency	A measure of water clarity as defined by how far we can see through it.	Secchi disks and transparency tubes are commonly used to measure the transparency of water.	CWT
150	Environmental Monitoring	Trend monitoring	Consistent and systematic long-term data collection to provide a quantitative means to distinguish long-term trends from short-term fluctuations and natural fluctuations from effects of human activities		NWQMC
151	Hydrology	Tributaries	A body of water that drains into another, typically larger, body of water.		CWT
152	Measurement System	True Value	A value thought to represent the real value of a measurable property.	Standard solutions represent the True value and are used for the calibration of instruments, or to check whether their reading is accurate.	CWT
153	Environmental conditions	Turbidity	an expression of the optical properties of a liquid that causes light rays to be scattered and absorbed rather than transmitted in straight lines through a sample		USGS2
154	Measurement System	Turbidity, nephelometric	An empirical measure of turbidity based on a measurement of the light-scattering characteristics (Tyndall effect) of the particulate matter in the sample.		ASTM
155	Measurement System	Uncertainty	(of measurement) parameter associated with the result of a measurement that characterizes the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurement.		ASTM
156	Measurement System	Uncertainty analysis	The process of quantifying uncertainty and generating confidence intervals around the measurement Results. Observed difference attributable to heterogeneity or diversity in a population. Sources of variability are the results of natural random processes and stem from environmental differences among the elements of the population.		RK
157	Environmental conditions	Variability		Variability is not usually reducible by further measurement but can be better estimated by increasing sampling.	EPA
158	channel	Vertical	A neutral term for a line that is laid out vertically from the water surface to the bottom of the channel.	Verticals are often laid along a crossline, e.g., for discharge measurements, but a Vertical can be laid anywhere in the channel.	RK
159	channel	Water Column	The water between the surface and the bottom of a river, lake, estuary, or ocean.	Sometimes called "vertical" in USGS documents	CWT
160	Environmental Monitoring	Water Quality Parameters	Any of the measurable qualities or contents of water. Includes temperature, salinity, turbidity, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and others; also known as characteristics.		CWT
161	Hydrology	Water table	the top of the water surface in the saturated part of an aquifer		USGS3

162 Hydrology	Watershed	the land area that drains water to a particular stream, river, lake, estuary, or coastal zone [edited by RK]	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, like the Mississippi River basin contain thousands of smaller watersheds.	USGS3
163 Hydrology	Well (water)	an artificial excavation put down by any method for the purposes of withdrawing water from the underground aquifers.	A bored, drilled, or driven shaft, or a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension and whose purpose is to reach underground water supplies or oil, or to store or bury fluids below ground.	USGS3