



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TECHNICAL GLOSSARY

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)	Federal law
Aggregate	A material or structure formed from a loosely-compacted mass of fragments
Anti-Icing	Process of preventing the formation of ice, generally through the application of brine
Apron	Flared section of driveway between sidewalk and street that allows access to private property
Automated Refuse Collection	Method of refuse collection using a single operator, remaining in the cab operating a mechanical arm or lifting device that automatically extends and grasps or attaches to a standardized refuse container that is left at the curbside
AWWA (American Water Works Association)	The AWWA is a professional advisory organization.
Backflow preventer/vacuum breaker	Mechanical device to prevent water from being drawn back into the potable system
Base Course	Aggregate section placed on native ground to support pavement
BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)	A bioassay used to determine the strength of wastewater
Brine	A water and salt solution
CAA (Construction Access Agreement)	A document allowing City construction on a small portion of private property
Carriage Walk	A section of sidewalk installed perpendicular to the street between the public sidewalk and the street curb
Catch Basin	A structure located at the point where a street gutter discharges into the storm sewer and designed to catch and retain coarse debris that would not pass readily



	through the sewer
CBOD (Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand)	A bioassay used to determine the strength of wastewater without interference from ammonia
CC (Cross Connection)	Possible interconnection of a contaminant to the potable water system
CCR (Consumer Confidence Report)	The CCR is an annual water quality report
CCT (Corrosion Control Treatment)	Chemicals added to the drinking water to minimize corrosion
CCTV (Closed Circuit Televising)	A method of conducting inspection of underground pipes that allows viewers to review the condition and note location of lateral connections
Clay Dam	A plug of clay material intended to block the flow of groundwater around underground pipes
Clean Out	A surface inspection point utilized on smaller piping, typically on private property
Clearing and Grubbing	The removal of trees and roots
Closed to Local Traffic	Street is closed to all traffic, including properties within the construction zone
CMAR (Compliance Maintenance Annual Report)	The required annual mechanism used to report treatment plant performance to the WDNR
CMOM (Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance)	A required program used to keep accurate records of the efforts taken to clean and maintain a sanitary collection system
CT (Contract Time)	



Curb Stop	The water shutoff valve for private property, typically located behind the curb, in the terrace
DATCP (Department of Trade, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection)	The DATCP is a federal agency and control authority over the WFP certified laboratory
DBP (Disinfection Byproduct)	Compound formed when chlorine or bromine interacts with organic materials in water
DMF (Dual Media Filter)	One of the treatment processes in filtering drinking water
DMR (Discharge Monitoring Report)	A monthly performance report submitted to the WDNR
DO (Dissolved Oxygen)	The amount of dissolved free oxygen available in water
DSPS (Department of Safety and Professional Services)	The DSPS is a state agency and control authority
EAM (Enterprise Asset Management)	Computerized tool utilized to keep records of the equipment managed by staff
EMOR (Electronic Monthly Operating Report)	A monthly performance report submitted to the WDNR
EP (Entry Point)	Point at which drinking water leaves the WFP and enters the distribution system
EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)	The EPA is a federal agency and control authority for environmental concerns and contaminants
Erosion Control	Measures taken to reduce or eliminate the movement of soil from a construction site
ERP (Emergency Response Plan)	This plan is used to respond to emergencies



Excavation	The process of digging out the street bed in preparation of placing the base course and pavement
Flushing (Hydrants)	Running water out of a fire hydrant. This practice is typically conducted on dead end mains where water quality is a concern
FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)	Common in wastewater and a re-occurring problem that impacts biological processes at the wastewater treatment plant; can cause blockages in public and private sewers
Formwork	Construction materials that make up a perimeter around an area to be paved
GAC (Granular Activated Carbon)	Media used to remove contaminants from water
Galvanized Considered Lead	Galvanized water service that was never downstream from lead
GIS (Global Information System)	An electronic mapping and record-keeping system
Gpm (gallons per minute)	Measure of flow rate
GPS (Global Positioning System)	
HAL (Health Action Level)	
HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials)	Materials that are hazardous and require special treatment and handling
HBWC	
HES (High Early Strength)	A form of concrete that cures to usable strength faster
HFBO-DA	



Hudson Box	A cover utilized when a curb stop is located within pavement
HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)	
Inlet	Structural point where water enters a sewer system
IOC (Inorganic Carbon)	
IT (Information Technology)	
KPI's (Key Performance Indicators)	KPI's help track progress on the City's Strategic Plan goals
Lateral Sidewalk Squares	Sidewalk sections that are being replaced solely due to the installation of private service laterals
Lateral Televising	Closed circuit televising of storm and sanitary sewer services
LCR/LCRR (Lead and Copper Rule/Lead and Copper Rule Revisions)	Federal and State Regulations
Liming	
LOD (Limit of Detection)	The lowest concentration of a substance in a sample that can consistently be detected
LOQ (Limit of Quantification)	The lowest concentration at which the substance can not only be reliably detected, but at which some predefined goals for bias and precision are met
LOTO (Lock Out Tag Out)	



LSLR (Lead Service Line Replacement)	Lead or galvanized considered lead water service lateral requiring replacement
LSLR Program (Lead Service Line Replacement Program)	The mechanism that requires LSLR. It may or may not offer reimbursement funds to eligible property owners
Main/Arterial (Roadway)	A high-capacity urban road in terms of traffic flow and speed
Manholes	Underground structures utilized for pipe connections that have an access point at the surface
Marker Balls	An underground utilize line locating device
MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)	
Meter (Water meter)	Device owned, operated and maintained by the Water Utility; used to measure water usage for billing purposes
MG (Million Gallons)	
mg/l (Milligram per liter)	A measurement used for chemical addition or reporting contaminants. Equivalent to one (1) part per million
MGD (Million Gallons per Day)	Measure of flow rate
MS4 (Municipal Seperate Storm Sewer System)	A Municipally owned and operated storm sewer system designed for conveyance of runoff to Waters of the State. Several EPA and WDNR regulations apply to the MS4
NH3 (Ammonia)	A compound that is common in wastewater and is the main loading factor for biosolids application on farm fields
NOD (Nitrogenous Oxygen Demand)	The measure of the amount of oxygen necessary to convert ammonia to nitrite and nitrate



NON (Notice of Noncompliance)	A letter from the WDNR used to document violations and request corrections
NOV (Notice of Violation)	A formal letter from the WDNR providing specific notice of alleged violations and consequences
NR101 (Wisconsin Legislature, Administrative Code, Department of Natural Resources, Chapter NR 101: Reports and Fees for Wastewater Discharges)	NR 101 relates to annual Reports and Fees for Wastewater Discharges
NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)	Measurement of water clarity
OCCT (Optimized Corrosion Control Treatment)	Drinking water treatment process that is maximized for efficient reduction of pipe material corrosion from treated drinking water
PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating scale)	<p>The PASER scale is a 1-10 rating system for road pavement condition with 1 being the worst condition, and 10 being the best condition (new pavement)</p> <p>The Department uses the PASER scale to rate road pavement condition and determine required repairs</p>
Paving	The process of placing final street pavement surface. This can refer to asphalt or concrete
PFAS compounds (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)	PFAS compounds are a class of thousands of human-made chemicals used in everything from food packaging and cookware to upholstery, clothing and firefighting foam. The chemicals do not readily break down in the environment, so they are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals”
PFBS	





PFBS	
PFHxS	
PFNA	
PFNA	
PFOA	
PFOS	
PLC (Programmable Logic Controller)	
Potable water (Drinking water)	Water suitable for human consumption
POTW (Publicly Operated Treatment Works)	Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants
PPB (Parts per Billion)	One (1) part per one (1) billion parts
Ppd (pounds per day)	
PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)	
PPM (Parts per Million)	One (1) part per one (1) million parts
PPT (parts per trillion)	One (1) part per one (1) trillion part
Private side water service	Portion of the service owned, operated, and maintained by the property owner; includes pipe from the curbstop to the meter
PRV (Pressure Reducing Valve)	Mechanism to reduce pressure in the drinking water system
PSC (Public Service Commission of Wisconsin)	State Regulatory Authority overseeing Utilities



Public Side Water Service	Portion of the service owned, operated and maintained by the Water Utility; includes pipe from the public main to and including the curbstop
Punchlist	A document utilized by inspectors after construction to inform the Contractor of work that needs attention
Rehab Sidewalk Squares	Sidewalk sections that have defects requiring repair in order to maintain compliance with the ADA
Right of Way	Publicly owned land available for the use of all. Typically right-of-way is associated with streets that are open for all, not private
RMP (Risk Management Plan)	Plan that manages risk
Road Crown	Downward slope of the road from the centerline to the curb. Intended to direct water from the roadway into storm sewers
Root Trimming	Trimming of tree roots to allow for paving operations
Sanitary Lateral (Service)	The small pipe conveying sewage from private property to the public main
Sanitary Sewer System	The overall system utilized for the collection of sewage and conveyance of the sewage to the WWTP
SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)	The computer program used to control processes and equipment
SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)	
SDS (Safety Data Sheets)	
SDWA (Safe Drinking Water Act)	Federal regulations applying to drinking water standards



Secondary/Collectors (Roadway)	A road supplementing a main road, usually wide enough and suitable for two-way traffic
Sewage (Wastewater)	The spent water of a community
Sidewalk	A paved area at the edge of the right-of-way to facility pedestrian and other non-motorized transportation. Must be compliant with the ADA
Sidewalk Ramp	Also referred to as a Handicapped Ramp. This is a section of public sidewalk that is tapered to a street crossing to allow safe passage of pedestrians, particularly disabled pedestrians
Sillcock (Hosebib)	Threaded connection point for garden hose
SOC (Synthetic Organic Carbon)	
Soil Borings	Drilling and sampling of soil conducted prior to construction to determine the soil conditions and test for contaminants
SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)	
Special Assessment	A charge levied against adjacent property associated with public construction. Regulated by state statutes
Special Charge	A mechanism for municipalities to recover certain costs associated with construction or maintenance. Regulated by state statutes
SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow)	A SSO is a release of wastewater from a sewage collection system or from a location other than the permitted outfall
Stop Box	
Storm Lateral (Service)	The small pipe conveying runoff and sump pump discharge from private property to the public main



Storm Lateral Inlet	A structure connected to the storm lateral that allows surface water to enter the lateral
Storm Sewer System	The overall system utilized for the collection of storm water runoff and conveyance to Waters of the State
Survey	The process of obtaining information about what is present within a construction zone and determining elevations. The survey forms the basis for all design and construction work
SWTR (Surface Water Treatment Rule)	
Taper	A section of curb that transitions from no height to a height matching adjacent curb (typically 6" in height)
Terrace	Grass area between the sidewalk and curb. This is part of the public right-of-way.
Tier II (Chemical Inventory Report)	
TKN (Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen)	The combination of organic nitrogen and ammonia in a sample of water.
TLE (Temporary Limited Easement)	A legal document allowing temporary access to another person's property
TN (Total Nitrogen)	The combination of Organic Nitrogen, Nitrite, Nitrate and Ammonia in a sample of water
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	
Traffic Control	Signage and measures installed to regulate how traffic flows
Trimming	A mechanical process utilized to remove excess base course from the ground and create a consistent foundation for the placement of pavement



TSS (Total Suspended Solids)	The total amount of debris that can be filtered in a sample of water
UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule)	Provides EPA and other interested parties with suspected contaminant data present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
UDF (Uni-Directional Flushing)	Flushing process to remove sediment and debris
ug/l (Microgram per liter)	Ultra-low level contaminant reporting equivalent to one (1) part per billion
UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply)	
Utility Locates (Digger's Hotline Locates)	Markings that are applied to the ground surface to show the approximate location of underground utilities
VFD (Variable Frequency Drive)	
VOC (Volatile Organic Compound)	
Warranty	A period of time that materials and craftsmanship are guaranteed from defects
Water Lateral (Service)	The small pipe conveying water from the main to private property
WDNR/DNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)	The WDNR is a state agency and control authority for environmental concerns and contaminants
WET Test (Whole Effluent Toxicity Test)	A bioassay to determine the quality of the Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent. Daphnia and Fathead minnows are raised in the effluent assessing its lack of toxicity
WFP (Water Filtration)	Plant that produces drinking water



Plant)	
WOTS (Waters of the State)	Portions of public and private waters within the state or under its jurisdiction including lakes, bays, rivers, streams, springs, ponds, wells, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, drainage systems and other surface water or groundwater (natural or artificial), except those waters which are entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a person
WPDES (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)	The state program that issues permits that define water quality discharge limits. Program managed by WDNR
WQP (Water Quality Parameters)	Different characteristics to be sampled for in drinking water monitoring
WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant)	A facility that cleans, disinfects and discharges sewage

