

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Area of Concern (AOC)** – an area identified as a potential environmental concern.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** – Also known as “Superfund,” this law was enacted in 1980 and requires the identification, investigation, and clean up of contaminated sites.

**Dichloroethene (DCE)** – a chemical that can be either man-made or produced by the natural degradation of TCE.

**Feasibility Study (FS)** – an evaluation of the different cleanup methods for a hazardous waste site. The cleanup methods also are evaluated for cost-effectiveness as well as how well each method will work at a particular site.

**Groundwater Plume** – a body of groundwater containing dissolved contaminants at concentrations exceeding Federal or state drinking water levels at multiple sampling locations (monitoring wells). When solvents such as TCE are released into the environment by spilling or dumping, they move downward through the soil and then become dissolved into the groundwater. Because groundwater naturally moves through subsurface soils, this dissolved groundwater contamination also moves, thereby creating a groundwater plume.

**Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL)** – a non-soluble liquid that is less dense than water. These liquids float on water and include such materials as gasoline, aviation fuels, and oils.

**Microgram per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )** – a metric unit of measurement of a particular compound dissolved in a liquid. In environmental investigations, this unit of measure is generally used to describe the concentration of a contaminant dissolved in groundwater or surface water. One thousand micrograms equals 1 milligram.

**Milligram per Liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )** – a metric unit of measurement of a particular compound dissolved in a liquid. In environmental investigations, this unit of measure is generally used to describe the concentration of a contaminant dissolved in groundwater or surface water. One milligram contains 1,000 micrograms.

**Natural Attenuation** – dilution, dispersion, (bio)degradation, irreversible sorption and/or radioactive decay of contaminants in soils and groundwater. Natural attenuation causes a net reduction of contaminant toxicity and human and ecological risk.

**Oil Water Separator (OWS)** – an oil water separator is used to separate the oil from waste water. Oil water separators are used commonly with service stations, maintenance shops, and surface water drainage systems where surface water run off may collect oil drippings or small spills.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** – a law enacted to identify active hazardous waste generating facilities, investigate past site contamination, and initiate cleanup and pollution prevention measures.

**RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA)** – an assessment of a storage unit or site regulated under RCRA, the results of which may either indicate no further action is necessary or further investigation is required through an RFI.

**RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)** – an investigation of soil and groundwater contamination resulting from a release of contaminants from a storage unit regulated under RCRA.

**Risk Reduction Standard (RRS)** – a risk-based cleanup standard for soil and groundwater defined by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

**Site Investigation (SI)** – a preliminary environmental study of a site possibly contaminated by an underground storage tank used for storing petroleum products such as gasoline or aviation fuels.

**Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU)** – a defined area used for storage or disposal of hazardous wastes as defined by RCRA.

**Trichloroethene (TCE)** – an industrial solvent used to dissolve or disperse another substance such as oil; often used in degreasing metal parts.

**Underground Storage Tank (UST)** – a tank installed beneath the ground surface used for storing liquids such as gasoline, aviation fuels, and waste oils.

**Vinyl Chloride** – a chemical compound produced both by manufacturing and by degradation of TCE in the environment.

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)** – a type of organic chemical or compound with a high propensity to vaporize.

**Waste Accumulation Area (WAA)** – a specified area used for temporary storage of hazardous wastes.