

## Chapter 13. Glossary

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## 13 GLOSSARY

<b>100-year floodplain</b>	Land that becomes or will become submerged by a flood that has a chance to occur every 100 years.
<b>A-weighted sound level, dBA</b>	Assigns a weight to sound frequencies relative to how sensitive the human ear is to each sound frequency. Frequencies that are less sensitive to the human ear are weighted less than those for which the ear is more sensitive. A-weighted measurements indicate the potential damage a noise might cause to hearing.
<b>Adsorbed</b>	Taken up or transformed into a different form.
<b>Aesthetic</b>	The perception of appearance of features in relation to one's sense of beauty.
<b>Air quality</b>	The cleanliness of the air as measured by the levels of pollutants relative to standards or guideline levels established to protect human health and welfare. Air quality is often expressed in terms of the pollutant for which concentrations are the highest percentage of a standard (e.g., air quality may be unacceptable if the level of one pollutant is 150 percent of its standard, even if levels of other pollutants are well below their respective standards).
<b>Alluvial</b>	Relating to clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar detrital material deposited by running water.
<b>Ambient noise level</b>	Background noise associated with a given environment. Ambient noise is typically formed as a composite of sounds from many near and far sources, with no particular dominant sound.
<b>Aquatic</b>	Characteristics of or pertaining to water.
<b>Aquifer</b>	Body of rock or sediment that is capable of transmitting ground water and yielding usable quantities of water to wells or springs.
<b>Archaeological resources</b>	Material remains of past activity.
<b>Area of potential effect</b>	The geographic region that may be affected as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project or alternatives.
<b>Arterial (highway)</b>	A highway generally characterized by its ability to quickly move a relatively large volume of traffic, but often with restricted capacities to serve abutting properties. The arterial system typically provides for high travel. The rural and urban arterial highway systems are connected to provide continuous through movements.
<b>Artesian</b>	Ground water conditions in which water in wells rises above the water level in the aquifer, including conditions in which ground water rises to or above the ground surface.
<b>Attainment</b>	Those areas of the U.S. that meet NAAQS as determined by measurements of air pollutant levels.
<b>Attenuate</b>	To lessen the amount of force, magnitude, or value of something.
<b>Base-load electric power</b>	The amount of power required to meet minimum demands based on reasonable expectations of customer requirements.
<b>Bedrock</b>	The rock of the Earth's crust that is below the soil and largely unweathered.
<b>Biocide</b>	A substance (e.g., chlorine) that is toxic or lethal to many organisms and is used to treat water.
<b>Black water</b>	A liquid mixture from the gasification process that consists of granulated slag, quench water, and unreacted char.
<b>Blowdown</b>	Portion of circulating cooling tower water (or steam or water removed from a boiler) removed to maintain the amount of dissolved solids and other impurities at an acceptable level.

<b>Boiler</b>	A pressurized system in which water is vaporized to steam, the desired end product, by heat transferred from a source of higher temperature, usually the products of combustion from burning fuels.
<b>Brackish</b>	Water that is saltier than fresh water, but less than sea water. Salt content of brackish water is between 0.5 and 30 parts per thousand.
<b>Brine</b>	Water saturated with salt.
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	A colorless, odorless, nonpoisonous, GHG created by combustion and emitted primarily from human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity and operate motor vehicles.
<b>CO</b>	A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion.
<b>Carcinogenic</b>	Capable of producing or inducing cancer.
<b>Catalyst</b>	A substance that enables a chemical reaction to proceed at a usually faster rate or under different conditions (as at a lower temperature) than otherwise possible.
<b>Class I area</b>	Under the Clean Air Act, a Class I area is one in which visibility is protected more stringently than under the NAAQS, with only a small increase in pollution allowed. Class I areas include national parks, wilderness areas, monuments, and other areas of special national and cultural significance. Only very slight deterioration of air quality is allowed in Class I areas.
<b>Class I railroad</b>	Railroad with operating revenues exceeding \$277.5 million.
<b>Class II area</b>	Most of the country not designated as Class I is designated as Class II. Class II areas are generally cleaner than air quality standards, and moderate increases in new pollution are allowed after a regulatory mandated impacts review.
<b>Class II railroads</b>	Railroad with operating revenues greater than \$20.5 million but less than \$277.5 million for at least three consecutive years.
<b>Class III railroads</b>	Railroad with less than \$10 million in operating revenue; typically short in length.
<b>Clean Water Act</b>	Primary federal law governing water pollution. The Clean Water Act's goals include eliminating toxic substance releases to water, eliminating additional water pollution, and ensuring that surface waters meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation (see National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System).
<b>Coagulation</b>	Becoming viscous or thickened into a coherent mass.
<b>Coal combustion products</b>	Incombustible by-products generated in coal-burning industrial facilities. The by-products are generated in various steps of the process. Coal combustion products generated in the boilers or furnaces are ash and slag. Other by-products such as fly ash and synthetic gypsum are collected in the emission control systems.
<b>Coal gasification</b>	A process that converts coal into a gaseous product, which involves crushing coal into a powder and heating the powder in the presence of steam and O <sub>2</sub> in a reducing or substoichiometric atmosphere. After impurities (e.g., sulfur) are removed, the gas can be used as a fuel or further processed and concentrated into a chemical or liquid fuel.
<b>Collector road</b>	Low- or moderate-capacity road that does not provide a highway or arterial road LOS. A collector route often leads traffic to arterial roads or directly to highways. Occasionally a collector road will fill gaps in a grid system between arterial roads. Traffic volumes and speeds are typically lower than those of arterial highways.
<b>Combined-cycle electric power plant</b>	A power plant that uses both a steam turbine-generator and a combustion turbine-generator at one location to produce electricity.

<b>Combustion turbine</b>	A gas turbine that burns natural gas, fuel oil, or other similar fuels, drives a turbine and generator to produce electricity, and is typically used as the primary generator of electricity in a combined-cycle installation.
<b>Condensate</b>	A liquid obtained by the conversion of a gas or vapor to another state.
<b>Conveyor system</b>	Method used to transport material in a continuous fashion, consisting of a drive, belt, pulleys, and conveyor stands. Material is placed on the belt and is moved by rotating the belt over pulleys.
<b>Cooling tower</b>	A structure that cools heated condenser water by circulating the water along a series of louvers and baffles through which cool, outside air convects naturally or is forced by large fans.
<b>Cooling water</b>	Water that is heated as a result of being used to cool steam and condense it to water.
<b>Corona noise</b>	Noise caused by partial discharges on insulators and in air surrounding electrical conductors of overhead power lines. Corona noise level is dependent on weather conditions.
<b>Cultural resources</b>	Archaeological sites, historical sites (e.g., standing structures), Native American resources, and paleontological resources.
<b>Cumulative effects</b>	The impact to the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.
<b>Day-night noise level, Ldn</b>	The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
<b>Decibel, dB</b>	Unit used to convey intensity of sound.
<b>Density</b>	Ratio of a substance's weight relative to its volume.
<b>Diversion (water)</b>	The amount of water taken from a stream, spring, or well by channel, embankment, or other man-made structure constructed for the purpose of diverting water from one area to another.
<b>Drawdown</b>	The process by which the water table adjacent to a well is lowered after active pumping from an aquifer.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	A community and its environment treated together as a functional system of complementary relationships involving the transfer and circulation of energy and matter.
<b>Effluent</b>	Waste stream flowing into the atmosphere, surface water, ground water, or soil.
<b>Emergent</b>	Erect, rooted herbaceous plants, such as cattails and bulrush, which dominate wetlands.
<b>Emission</b>	A material discharged into the atmosphere from a source operation or activity.
<b>Endangered species</b>	Plants or animals that are in danger of extinction. A federal list of endangered species can be found in 50 C.F.R. § 17.11 (wildlife), 50 C.F.R. § 17.12 (plants), and 50 C.F.R. § 222.23(a) (marine organisms). Texas maintains its list of endangered species with the TPWD.
<b>Environmental justice</b>	The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.
<b>Equivalent sound level, Leq</b>	Weighting imposed on the equivalent sound levels occurring during nighttime.

<b>Erosion</b>	The process by which particles of soils or other material are removed and transported by water, wind, and/or gravity to some other area.
<b>Evaporation</b>	A physical process by which a liquid is transformed into a gaseous state.
<b>Flocculation</b>	A process by which microscopic substances suspended in a liquid come out of suspension in the form of floc or flakes.
<b>Floodplain</b>	Flat or nearly flat land adjacent to a stream or river that experiences occasional or periodic flooding.
<b>Flue gas</b>	Residual gases after combustion that are vented to the atmosphere through a flue or chimney.
<b>Formation</b>	The primary unit associated with formal geological mapping of an area. Formations possess distinctive geological features and can be combined into “groups” or subdivided into “members.”
<b>Fossil fuel</b>	Coal, oil, or natural gas, formed from vegetation and animals under high pressure and temperatures during a past geological age.
<b>Frequency</b>	The number of cycles of completed occurrences per unit of time of a sound wave, most often measured in Hertz.
<b>Fresh water</b>	Water with a low concentration of salts (typically less than 1,000 ppm of dissolved solids).
<b>Fugitive dust</b>	PM composed of soil; can include emissions from haul roads, wind erosion of exposed surfaces, and other activities in which soil is removed and redistributed.
<b>Gasification</b>	Conversion process to gas or a gas-like phase.
<b>Geologic CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> capture and storage in deep underground geologic formations.
<b>Global warming</b>	The theory that certain gases such as CO <sub>2</sub> , methane, and chlorofluorocarbon in the Earth’s atmosphere effectively restrict radiation cooling, thus elevating the Earth’s ambient temperatures or creating a greenhouse effect.
<b>Gray water</b>	Waste water that does not contain serious contaminants.
<b>GHG</b>	Gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation and ultimately warming the atmosphere. GHGs include water vapor, nitrous oxide, methane, CO <sub>2</sub> , O <sub>3</sub> , halogenated fluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, and perfluorinated carbons.
<b>Ground water</b>	Water within a geologic stratum that supplies wells and springs.
<b>Habitat</b>	The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.
<b>HAP</b>	Air pollutants that are not covered by ambient air quality standards but that present, or may present, a threat of adverse health or environmental effects. These include an initial list of 189 chemicals designated by the U.S. Congress that is subject to revision by EPA.
<b>Hazardous waste</b>	A by-product of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or appears on special EPA lists.
<b>Heavy metals</b>	Natural trace elements such as lead, Hg, cadmium, and nickel, that are leachable and potentially toxic.
<b>Historic property</b>	Prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP.
<b>Historical site</b>	A site that is more than 50 years old.
<b>Hydrology</b>	A science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and the underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.
<b>Impoundment</b>	A body of water confined by a dam, dike, floodgate, or other barrier.

<b>Indirect employment/labor</b>	Employment or job created or sustained from a project's purchase of goods and services from businesses in a region.
<b>Induced employment/labor</b>	Employment or job created or sustained when wage incomes of those employed in direct and indirect jobs are spent on the purchase of goods and services in a region.
<b>Industrial and/or process waste</b>	Any liquid, solid, semisolid, or gaseous waste generated when manufacturing a product or performing a service. Examples include cutting oils; paint sludges; equipment cleanings; metallic dust sweepings; used solvents from parts cleaners; and off-specification, contaminated, or recalled wholesale or retail products. The following wastes are not industrial process wastes: uncontaminated packaging materials, uncontaminated machinery components, general household waste, landscape waste, and construction or demolition debris.
<b>Infiltration</b>	The process of water entering the soil at the ground surface and the ensuing movement downward. Infiltration becomes percolation when water has moved below the depth at which it can return to the atmosphere by evaporation or evapotranspiration.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	The underlying foundation of a basic framework, as in a system or organization.
<b>IGCC</b>	A process that uses synthesis gas derived from coal to drive a gas combustion turbine, and exhaust gas from the gas turbine to generate steam from water to drive a steam turbine.
<b>Integration</b>	Organization or structure allowing constituent units to function cooperatively.
<b>Intrusive (noise)</b>	That noise which intrudes over and above the existing ambient noise at a given location. The relative intrusiveness of a sound depends upon its amplitude, duration, frequency, time of occurrence, and tonal or informational content, as well as the prevailing ambient noise level.
<b>Irretrievable commitments</b>	Resources that are lost for a period of time.
<b>Landfill</b>	Waste disposal method where waste material is stockpiled in a designated area until that area is full, at which time the material is buried and reclaimed in accordance with the applicable regulations for that type of landfill.
<b>Laydown area</b>	Material and equipment storage area during the construction phase of a project.
<b>LOS</b>	Measure of traffic operation effectiveness on a particular roadway facility type.
<b>Lithic scatter</b>	Concentration of waste flakes resulting from the manufacture of stone tools.
<b>Loam</b>	A soil composed of a mixture of clay, silt, sand, and organic matter.
<b>Local roads</b>	Public roads and streets not classified as arterials or collectors are classified as local roads. Local roads and streets are characterized by the many points of direct access to adjacent properties and the relatively minor value in accommodating mobility. Speeds and volumes are usually low and trip distances short.
<b>Low income population</b>	A community that has a proportion of low-income population greater than the respective average. Low income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from Bureau of the Census Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Income and Poverty.
<b>Makeup water</b>	Water feed needed to replace that which is lost by evaporation or leakage in a closed-circuit, recycle operation.
<b>Mean sea level</b>	Average ocean surface height at a particular location for all stages of the tide over a specified time interval (generally 19 years).
<b>MW</b>	Unit of power equal to 1 million watts. A power plant with 1 MW of capacity operating continuously for one year could supply electricity to approximately 750 households.
<b>Minority</b>	Individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic.

<b>Minority population</b>	Identified where either more than 50 percent of the population of the affected area is minority, or the affected area's minority population percentage is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.
<b>Miscible</b>	Property of liquids that allows them to be mixed together and form a single homogeneous phase.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Efforts to lessen the severity or to reduce adverse impacts, including: avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action; repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation; and compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Periodic or continuous determination of the amount of substances present in the environment.
<b>Monitoring, mitigation, and verification</b>	Capability to measure the amount of CO <sub>2</sub> stored at a sequestration site, monitor the site for leaks, to verify that the CO <sub>2</sub> is stored in a way that is permanent and not harmful to the host ecosystem, and to respond to CO <sub>2</sub> leakage or ecological damage in the unlikely event that it should occur. Monitoring, mitigation, and verification applies to geologic sequestration and terrestrial sequestration.
<b>NAAQS</b>	Uniform, national air quality standards established by EPA that restrict ambient levels of certain pollutants to protect public health (primary standards) or public welfare (secondary standards). Standards have been set for O <sub>3</sub> , CO, particulates, SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> , and lead.
<b>NEPA</b>	Signed into law on January 1, 1970, NEPA declared a national policy to protect the environment and created the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President. To implement the national policy, NEPA requires that environmental factors be considered when federal agencies make decisions, and that a detailed statement of environmental impacts be prepared for all major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment.
<b>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</b>	Provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into U.S. waters unless a special permit is issued by EPA, a state, or where delegated, a tribal government on a Native American reservation.
<b>Native species</b>	Species normally indigenous to an area; not introduced by humans.
<b>New source performance standards</b>	Regulation under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act enforcing stringent emission standards for power plants constructed on or after January 30, 2004.
<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	A product of combustion by mobile and stationary sources and a major contributor to the formation of O <sub>3</sub> in the troposphere.
<b>Noise</b>	Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing; if intense enough, it can damage hearing.
<b>Nonattainment</b>	An area that does not meet air quality standards set by the Clean Air Act for specified localities and time periods; locations where pollutant concentrations are greater than the NAAQS.
<b>NOI</b>	Notice that an EIS will be prepared and considered. It is published in the <i>Federal Register</i> as soon as practicable after an agency knows that an EIS is required for a proposed action.
<b>O<sub>3</sub></b>	A form of O <sub>2</sub> found naturally in the stratosphere and that provides a protective layer for shielding the Earth from ultraviolet radiation. O <sub>3</sub> occurring in the lower atmosphere is harmful and is classified as a criteria pollutant.
<b>Palustrine</b>	Living or thriving in a marshy environment.
<b>PM</b>	Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions.
<b>Particulates</b>	Small particles of solid or liquid materials that, when suspended in the atmosphere, constitute an atmospheric pollutant.
<b>Peak demand</b>	The maximum rate of electricity use.

<b>Peak particle velocity</b>	Measure of ground vibration. Peak particle velocity is the maximum speed (measured in inches per second or millimeters per second) at which a point on the ground moves relative to its static state.
<b>Peaking capacity</b>	Capacity that is available for use and used to meet peak load, but usually designed to operate for relatively short periods of time.
<b>Permeability</b>	Rate at which fluids flow through the subsurface; reflects the degree to which pore space is connected.
<b>pH</b>	A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution.
<b>Plume</b>	A flowing, often somewhat conical, trail of emissions from a continuous point source.
<b>Point source</b>	A stationary location or fixed facility from which pollutants are discharged or emitted. Also, any single identifiable source of pollution, for example, a pipe, ditch, or stack.
<b>Potable water</b>	Water that is safe and satisfactory for drinking and cooking.
<b>PSD</b>	An EPA program in which federal or state permits are required that are intended to restrict emissions for new or modified sources in places where air quality is already better than required to meet primary and secondary ambient air quality standards.
<b>Prime farmland</b>	Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion.
<b>Proposed action</b>	The activity proposed to accomplish a federal agency's purpose and need. An environmental impacts analysis analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed action. A proposed action includes the project and its related support activities (pre-construction, construction, and operation, along with post-operational requirements).
<b>Pulverized coal</b>	Crushed coal used to fuel a coal power plant. Currently the principal electric generation technology in the U.S.
<b>Qualitative</b>	Analysis based on professional judgment of quality, generally lacking hard data.
<b>Quantitative</b>	Analysis based on hard data or numbers that can generally be repeated.
<b>Recharge</b>	The movement of water from an unsaturated zone to a saturated zone.
<b>Reclamation</b>	Restoration of land, water bodies, or other affected environmental resources to the original use, or equal to or better alternate use.
<b>Record of Decision</b>	The concluding document of the NEPA process, which states the agency's decision, along with its rationale for its selection, including the major environmental reasons.
<b>Recycle</b>	The process of reusing or reprocessing a material after its initial use.
<b>ROI</b>	The physical area that bounds the environmental, sociologic, economic, or cultural features of interest for the purpose of analysis.
<b>Richter scale</b>	A measure of earthquake magnitude developed by Charles Richter.
<b>Riparian</b>	Pertaining to, situated, or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water.
<b>Runoff</b>	The portion of precipitation falling on the land that flows over the surface, rather than soaking into the surface.
<b>Saline</b>	Describes water with high concentrations of salts (typically more than 10,000 ppm dissolved solids), making it unsuitable for use.
<b>Scoping meeting</b>	An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.
<b>Scrubber</b>	A device that removes noxious gases from flue gases (such as SO <sub>2</sub> ) by using absorbents suspended in liquid solution.

<b>Scrub-shrub</b>	Woody vegetation less than 20 ft (6 m) tall. Species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.
<b>Sediment</b>	Material that has been eroded, transported, and deposited by erosional processes, typically wind, water, and/or glaciers.
<b>Sediment control</b>	The planning and construction of facilities for prevention of excessive damage by water in flood stages.
<b>Sedimentation</b>	The process or action of depositing sediment.
<b>Seismic</b>	Pertaining to, characteristic of, or produced by earthquakes or Earth vibrations.
<b>Selective catalytic reduction</b>	A system to reduce NO <sub>x</sub> emissions by injecting a reagent, such as NH <sub>3</sub> , into exhaust gas to convert NO <sub>x</sub> emissions to N <sub>2</sub> and water via a chemical reduction reaction.
<b>Sensitive receptor</b>	As used in this analysis, any specific resource (i.e., population or facility) that would be more susceptible to the effects of the impact of implementing the proposed action than would otherwise be.
<b>Sequestration</b>	As used in this analysis, the process of injecting CO <sub>2</sub> , which has been compressed into a liquid state, into the deep geologic subsurface, potentially isolating CO <sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere for centuries.
<b>Slag</b>	The refuse from melting of metals or reduction of ores.
<b>Sludge</b>	A semisolid residue containing a mixture of solid waste material and water from air or water treatment processes.
<b>Sound pressure level</b>	Measure of a sound's strength or intensity, expressed in dBA. The sound pressure level generated by a steady source of sound will usually vary with distance and direction from the source.
<b>Sour water</b>	Water with dissolved sulfur compounds and other contaminants condensed from synthesis gas.
<b>Spill prevention control and countermeasure plan</b>	A plan that is implemented to protect resources from harmful quantities of petroleum discharges.
<b>Stream</b>	A continually, frequently, or infrequently flowing body of water that follows a defined course. The three classes of streams are: ephemeral—a channel that carries water only during and immediately following rainstorms; intermittent—a watercourse that flows in a well-defined channel during the wet seasons of the year, but not the entire year; and perennial—a watercourse that flows throughout the year or nearly 90 percent of the time in a well-defined channel.
<b>Sub-bituminous</b>	A type of coal used primarily as fuel for electrical power generation, whose properties range between those of lignite and those of bituminous coal. At the lower end of the range it may be dull, dark brown to black, soft, and crumbly. At the higher end of the range it may be bright, jet black, hard, and relatively strong. Sub-bituminous coal contains 20–30 percent moisture by weight. Heating value varies from 7,000 Btu per pound to slightly over 9,000 Btu per pound.
<b>Subsidence</b>	A sinking of a part of the surface topography.
<b>Substation</b>	An assemblage of equipment for the purposes of switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electricity.
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	A heavy, pungent, colorless, gaseous air pollutant formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels.
<b>Superheat</b>	To heat a vapor not in contact with its liquid to the point at which a lowering of temperature or increase in pressure will not change it to a liquid.
<b>Surface water</b>	All bodies of water on the surface and open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, seas, and estuaries.

<b>Syngas</b>	Gas mixture containing varying amounts of CO and hydrogen generated by the gasification of a carbon-containing fuel.
<b>Tail gas</b>	Gas from a processing unit treated as a residue.
<b>Threatened species</b>	Plants or animals likely to become endangered species within the foreseeable future. A federal list of threatened species can be found in 50 C.F.R. § 17.11 (wildlife), 50 C.F.R. § 17.12 (plants), and 50 C.F.R. § 227.4 (marine organisms). Texas maintains a list of threatened species with the TPWD.
<b>Topography</b>	The configuration of a surface including its relief and position of the natural and man-made features.
<b>Topsoil</b>	The upper native soil layer, usually consisting of the A and E horizons.
<b>Transmission corridor</b>	Area used to provide separation between the transmission lines and the general public and to provide access to the transmission lines for construction and maintenance.
<b>Turbidity</b>	Capacity of material suspended in water to scatter light. Highly turbid water is often called muddy, although all manner of suspended particles contribute to turbidity.
<b>Turbine</b>	A machine for directly converting the kinetic energy and/or thermal energy of a flowing fluid (air, hot gas, steam, or water) into useful rotational energy.
<b>Upset or upset condition</b>	An unplanned or unpredictable failure of process components or subsystems that leads to an overall malfunction or temporary shutdown of a power plant or subsystem while an issue with a component is corrected.
<b>Vadose zone</b>	Area of soil between the ground surface and the area directly above the ground water surface (i.e., the water table) of unconfined aquifers.
<b>Vibration</b>	Force that oscillates about a specified reference point. Vibration is commonly expressed in terms of frequency, such as cycles per second, Hertz, cycles per minute, and strokes per minute.
<b>Viewshed</b>	A nonmanaged area with aesthetic value.
<b>Viscosity</b>	Measure of a material's resistance to flow.
<b>Volatile organic compounds</b>	Any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions, except for those designated by EPA as having negligible reactivity.
<b>Waste water</b>	A combination of liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, and/or industrial facilities.
<b>Water table</b>	The upper limit of the saturated zone (the portion of the ground wholly saturated with water; the upper surface of a zone of saturation above which the majority of pore spaces and fractures are less than 100 percent saturated with water most of the time (unsaturated zone) and below which the opposite is true (saturated zone).
<b>Watershed</b>	A region or area bounded peripherally by a water-parting feature and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.
<b>Wetland</b>	Area inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.
<b>ZLD system</b>	A process that separates solids and dissolved constituents from the plant waste water and allows the treated water to be recycled or reused in the industrial process, resulting in no discharge of waste water to the environment.