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Glossary of Water Management Terms



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Glossary of Water Management Terms

Technical words are often used when talking about water. *The Glossary of Water Management Terms* brings these words together and describes them using everyday language. You can use this as a reference tool during Water Licence Reviews or Environmental Assessments in your community. Keep it close by so you can quickly look up water terms.

The Glossary of Water Management Terms is produced by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). INAC manages the waters of Nunavut and advises the Department's Minister on water matters. The NWB has responsibility for the regulation, use and management of water in Nunavut. Both INAC and the NWB work in partnership to promote sustainable development.

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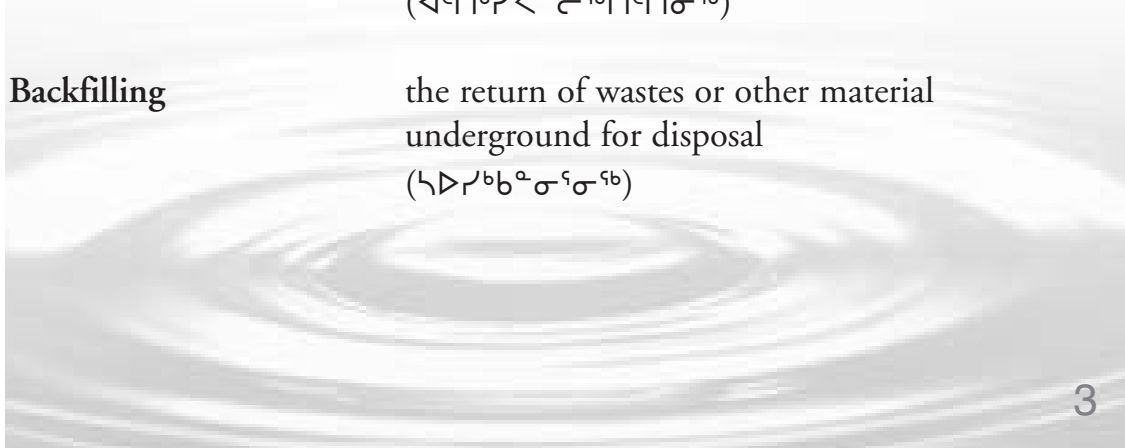
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Glossary of Water Management Terms

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|----------------------|---|
| Acid Drainage | any drainage from mine workings, waste or tailings, with a low (acidic) pH (ᐃᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Acidity | a measure of the capacity of a solution to neutralize bases (ᐃᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Adit | a horizontal entrance, or passage, in a mine (ᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦ) |
| Aeration | process of blowing air (or another gas such as carbon dioxide) through a liquid or solid (ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Aerobic | any biological process that occurs in the presence of oxygen; also applies to organisms that require oxygen to survive (ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Alkalinity | a measure of the capacity of a solution to neutralize acids (ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Anaerobic | any process that can occur without oxygen; also applies to organisms that can survive without oxygen (ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |
| Analysis | a close look at something to find out more about it; can involve looking closely at the individual parts of something and describing them (ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ) |

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| Anthropogenic | caused or produced as a result of human activity ($\Delta \sigma^{\alpha} \dot{\Gamma}^{\beta} \text{C} \triangleright \sigma \text{d}$) |
| Aquatic | term used to describe any organism growing in, living in, or frequenting water; some plants and animals that live in water are called aquatic species ($\Delta \text{L}^{\gamma} \Gamma \triangleright \text{C} \Delta^{\zeta}$) |
| Aquifer | an underground layer of rock or soil that contains water and can supply a large quantity of water to wells or springs ($\Delta \text{L}^{\beta} \dot{\text{C}}^{\gamma} \Delta^{\beta} \text{h}^{\beta}$) |
| Assessment | a written decision about the importance, size or value of something; for example, an environmental assessment may describe the value of arctic char after a study of the char, the fishermen, the method of fishing and the effect on the environment ($^{\beta} \sigma \Delta^{\zeta} \dot{\text{C}} \sigma \text{C} \Delta \sigma^{\beta}$) |
| Assimilative Capacity | the amount of pollutants that a water body may absorb while continuing to meet water quality standards ($\Delta \Gamma^{\zeta} \text{N} \triangleleft \text{C} \triangleright \triangleleft \Delta \text{c} \text{b}^{\text{L}} \text{L}^{\beta} \text{P}^{\alpha} \text{q}^{\gamma} \sigma^{\alpha} \text{L}$) |
| Attenuate | reduce in significance or concentration ($\triangleleft \text{C} \text{N} \text{b}^{\gamma} \dot{\text{C}}^{\zeta} \text{C}^{\beta} \text{N} \text{C} \text{N} \sigma^{\beta}$) |
| Backfilling | the return of wastes or other material underground for disposal ($\text{h} \triangleright \text{r}^{\beta} \text{b}^{\alpha} \sigma^{\gamma} \sigma^{\beta}$) |



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| Bedrock | solid rock underlying soil, gravel or loose boulders; the Canadian Shield is composed of bedrock (ፍጠረገፍጋጅ) |
| Best Management Practices | management or construction practices designed to be effective and reduce the impact on the environment (ᐃᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |
| Bioaccumulation | occurs when plants or animals collect contaminants in their tissues over time; when low amounts of contaminants are continually absorbed, they build up and can cause illness (ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) | a laboratory test to measure the amount of oxygen consumed by microorganisms as they decompose organic matter; the test indicates the amount of organic material in a water sample (ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |
| Biodegradable | material that will decompose under natural, biological conditions and processes (ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |
| Biodiversity | the number of different plants and animals that live in a specific area (ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |
| Bioindicators | organisms that are used to detect changes in environmental pollutant levels, such organisms are usually sensitive to changes in their surroundings (ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ ᐃᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦᑲᑯᑦ) |

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| Biomagnification | <p>an increase in concentration of a substance at each progressive link in the food chain (for example: berries → birds → foxes → bears; the concentration of a contaminant such as lead would be highest in a large meat-eater)</p> <p>(ኮንሮንትራት ከብሽህ ወይም ከአንድ ደረጃ ለሌላ ደረጃ ለመጨመር)</p> |
| Bioremediation | <p>a process to reduce contaminant levels in soil or water by using microorganisms or vegetation</p> <p>(አንድ ግድግዳ ወይም ግጭትን በመጠቀም ለውኃ ወይም ለብረት ውስጥ ድክመት ለመቀነስ)</p> |
| Biota | <p>the animals, plants, and microorganisms that live in a specific area</p> <p>(እንደሆነው)</p> |
| Buffering Capacity | <p>the ability of a substance to resist an increase or decrease in pH</p> <p>(አንድ ግድግዳ ወይም ግጭትን በመጠቀም ለውኃ ወይም ለብረት ውስጥ ድክመት ለመቀነስ)</p> |
| Chlorination | <p>process of purifying/disinfecting water by adding chlorine</p> <p>(አንድ ግድግዳ ወይም ግጭትን በመጠቀም ለውኃ ወይም ለብረት ውስጥ ድክመት ለመቀነስ)</p> |
| Climate | <p>the average weather for a particular region and time period</p> <p>(ኮንቶኒንት)</p> |
| Coarse Rejects | <p>waste rock that is produced early in a mine's processing stage; the rock is not further crushed or concentrated because it contains little or nothing of economic value</p> <p>(ኮንትራት ለብረት ውስጥ ድክመት ለመቀነስ)</p> |
| Concentrate | <p>a product containing a valuable mineral or metal and from which most of the waste material has been removed</p> <p>(አንድ ግድግዳ ወይም ግጭትን በመጠቀም ለውኃ ወይም ለብረት ውስጥ ድክመት ለመቀነስ)</p> |

Concentration the process of separating a mineral from valueless host rock in preparation for further processing; also the amount of a substance in a given weight or volume of another material
(ᐱᐅᐳᐴᐱᐳᐴᐳᐳᐳᐳᐳᐳ)

Conductivity a measure of the ability of a liquid to transmit electrical current or heat
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

Conservation protection, preservation, management, or restoration of a resource
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

Consumptive Water Use when water is used and not returned to its source, such as through evaporation or by including it in a product
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

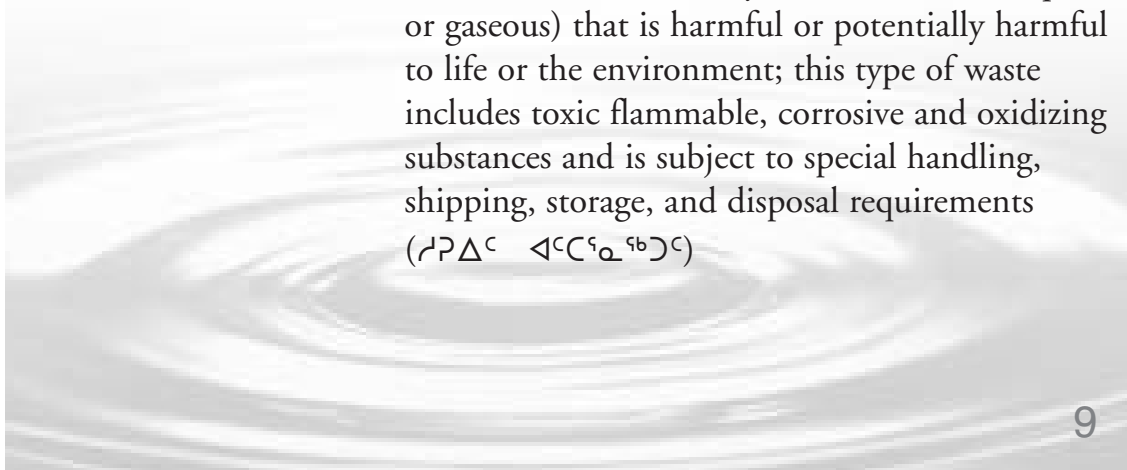
Contaminant introduced species, substance or material which was either not previously present or was present in a lesser amount, and that may have a harmful effect on the environment
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

Cumulative Effects the combined environmental impacts that accumulate over time and space as a result of a series of similar or related individual actions, contaminants, or projects
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

Decommissioning the process of permanently closing a facility/site; includes rehabilitation and plans for future maintenance of affected land and water
(ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ)

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| Dewater | the process of permanently closing a facility/site; includes rehabilitation and plans for future maintenance of affected land and water ($\Delta L \Delta \triangleright \Delta \sigma^{5b}$) |
| Diamond Drill | a piece of equipment used to drill through hard rock, the drill has a diamond on the drill bit and can cut through hard rock better than a metal drill bit ($C \Delta L^a c^b \Delta d C^{5b}$) |
| Dilution | to decrease the concentration of a substance by mixing it with another or by adding water ($\Delta \Gamma^u l c^{5b} \cap c \cap \sigma^{5b}$) |
| Disinfection | to destroy or prevent the growth of micro organisms ($^5 d \wedge ^5 p \Delta \triangleright \Delta \sigma^{5b}$) |
| Disposal | the relocation and/or containment, of unwanted materials ($\dot{f} \cap l \sigma^{5b}$) ($\triangleleft c \cap ^5 b \cap c \cap c \Delta c \sigma^{5b}$) |
| Dissolution | the process of dissolving a solid in a liquid ($\triangleleft \triangleright^b \cap c \cap \sigma^{5b}$) |
| Ecosystem | a community of plants, animals, and non-living things that exist in the same place ($u \triangleright l ^5 b ^5 \Delta \triangleright \triangleright ^5 b$) |
| Effluent | treated or untreated liquid waste material that is discharged into the environment from a structure such as a settling pond or treatment plant ($\Delta L ^5 \triangleright^u \Gamma^{aa} \dot{l} ^5 \sigma d$) |

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| Freeboard | the vertical space remaining in a containment structure; the vertical distance between the surface of the water and the top of a dam or dyke ($\Delta L \Gamma^b \sigma^a \sigma^a \sigma^a \sigma^a$) |
| Glacier | a huge mass of ice, formed on land by the compaction and re-crystallization of snow, that moves very slowly downslope or outward due to its own weight ($\rho \sigma^b$) |
| Greywater | liquid wastes from showers, baths, sinks, kitchens and domestic washing facilities; does not include toilet wastes ($\Delta L \sigma^b$) |
| Groundwater | the water found beneath the Earth's surface that supplies wells and springs ($\sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \Delta L \sigma^b$) |
| Grab Sample | a single water or wastewater sample taken at a single point in time and location ($\sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma$) |
| Habitat | the specific area in which a particular type of plant or animal lives ($\sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma$) |
| Hazardous Waste | a waste that contains any substance (solid, liquid, or gaseous) that is harmful or potentially harmful to life or the environment; this type of waste includes toxic flammable, corrosive and oxidizing substances and is subject to special handling, shipping, storage, and disposal requirements ($\sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma \sigma$) |



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| Hydrocarbons | any substance containing carbon and hydrogen in various combinations (e.g. gasoline and oil) (ᐅᖃᐱᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Hydrogeology | the study of groundwater, with particular emphasis on the chemistry and movement of water (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Hydrologic cycle | the circulation of the Earth's waters from ocean to atmosphere to land and back to ocean (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Hydrology | the science that deals with water, its properties, distribution and circulation over the Earth's surface (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Impoundment | a structure or location used for confined storage, such as a pond, lake or reservoir (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Impurity | an unwanted chemical substance that is present within another substance or mixture (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Intermittent Stream | a watercourse that does not flow continuously, or flows during spring and summer only (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |
| Inuit-Owned Land (IOL) | lands owned by a Designated Inuit Organization in accordance with section 19.3.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) |

Kimberlite a type of rock (produced by volcanic activity) that can contain diamonds
(ርልጊ ልብረት)

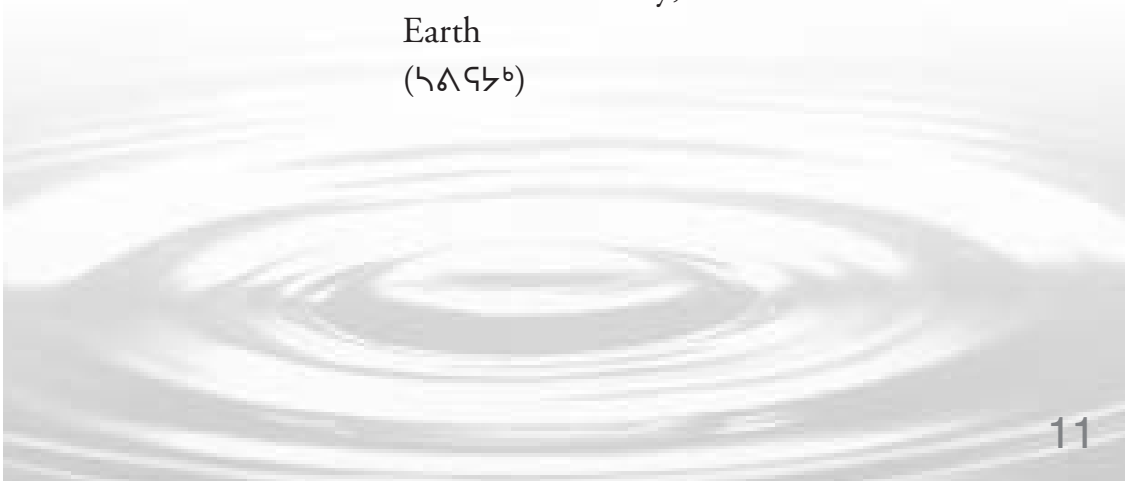
Kimberlite Pipe an occurrence of kimberlite, so named because it is narrow and vertical in shape and resembles a pipe
(ገረገጫ ልብረት)

Leachate water or other liquid that has washed (leached) from a solid material, such as a layer of soil or waste; leachate may contain contaminants
(የቆራቆራ)

Leaching occurs when a liquid (e.g. water) passes through a substance, picking up some of the material and carrying it to other places; this can happen under ground in solid rock, or above ground through piles of material
(የቆራቆራ)

Licensee the individual or organization to whom a licence is issued or assigned
(ለሥራ ለሰጪ ሰርዓተኛ)

Metal a group of elements possessing certain qualities including metallic luster, malleability, ductility, high specific gravity and good conductivity of heat and electricity; metals are mined from the Earth
(ካሊሜት)



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Base metal a general term applied to relatively inexpensive metals, such as copper, zinc, lead
(ᐃᑭᑭᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)

Heavy metal a general term applied to base metals that commonly occur in urban and industrial pollution
(ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦ ᐃᑕᑲᑦ ᐃᑕᑲᑦᑲᑦ)

Precious metal a general term applied to relatively expensive metals such as gold, silver, and platinum
(ᐃᑭᑭᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᑲᑦ ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ)

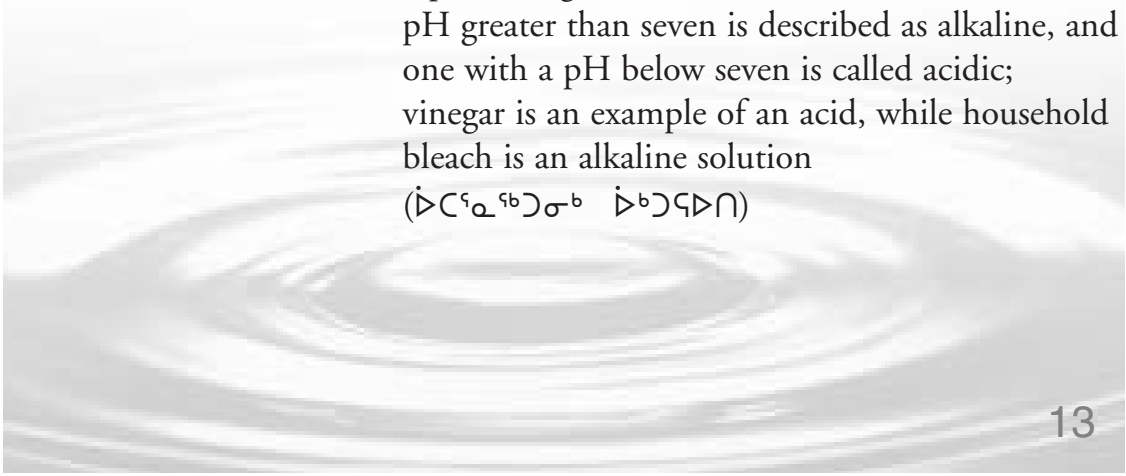
Milling Process process by which the valuable components of the ore are separated from waste material. Water is used and the waste is called tailings
(ᐃᑕᑲᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ)

Minewater water that is pumped or flows out of any under ground working or open pit
(ᐃᑕᑲᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᐃᑕᑲᑦᑲᑦ ᐃᑕᑲᑦᑲᑦ)

Mitigation actions taken for the purpose of reducing the negative impacts on the environment of a particular land use or activity
(ᑕᑕᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑕᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ)

Neutralization raising the pH of an acidic material or lowering the pH of an alkaline material to a nearly neutral pH level (7)
(ᑕᑕᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᑕᑕᑕᑦᑲᑦᑕᑦᑲᑦ)

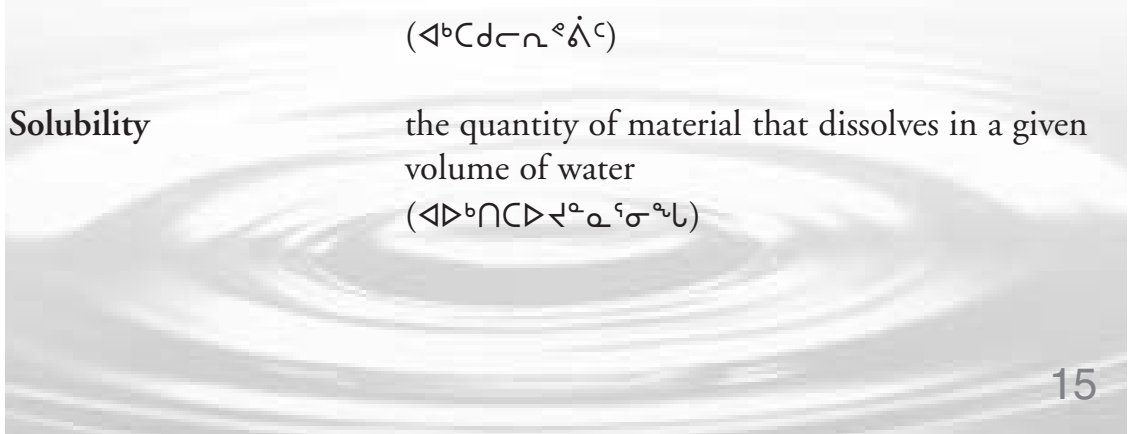
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| Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) | <p>the "Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada," including its preamble and schedules, and any amendments to that agreement made pursuant to it (ᓄᓇᓂᓪᓴᓂ ᓄᓇᑕᓪᓂᓪᓴᑦ ᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| Ore | <p>a mineral or solid material containing a precious or useful substance in a quantity and form that makes its extraction/mining profitable (ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| Overburden | <p>material that must be removed to gain access to an ore, particularly at a surface (open pit) mine (ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| Oxidation | <p>occurs when a substance is exposed to air (ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| Particulate Matter | <p>very small, separate particles (ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| Permafrost | <p>soil or rock which remains below freezing point throughout the year, as in polar and alpine regions (ᓄᓇᓂᓪᓴᓂ ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |
| pH | <p>a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution; the pH scale ranges from 0-14, with 7 representing neutral solutions; a solution with a pH greater than seven is described as alkaline, and one with a pH below seven is called acidic; vinegar is an example of an acid, while household bleach is an alkaline solution (ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂ)</p> |



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| Pollutant | a contaminant that negatively impacts the physical, chemical, or biological properties of the environment (ሥጥረ ነገረ ነገር) |
| Portal | the ground level entrance or opening to an underground mine (ጎብኚ) |
| Potable Water | water safe for human consumption (ልግሥት ውሃ) |
| Processed Kimberlite | the portion of washed or milled kimberlite that is regarded as too poor to be treated further; this material has little or no economic value (ርገጥ ካሚብላይት ለሥራ ላይ ሊውል ይገባል) |
| Process Water | water that is used in an industrial process and is not intended for human consumption (ልግሥት ላይ ሊውል ይገባል ውሃ) |
| Reclamation | the process of returning a site to its natural state, or a state that prevents environmental impacts or threats to human health and safety (ልማት ለማድረግ ይገባል) |
| Restoration | the renewing or repairing of a natural system so that its functions and qualities are comparable to those of its original, unaltered state (ልማት ለማድረግ ይገባል) |
| Runoff | water that is not absorbed by soil, and drains off the land into bodies of water. Can be caused by either rain or melt water (ልማት ለማድረግ ይገባል ውሃ) |

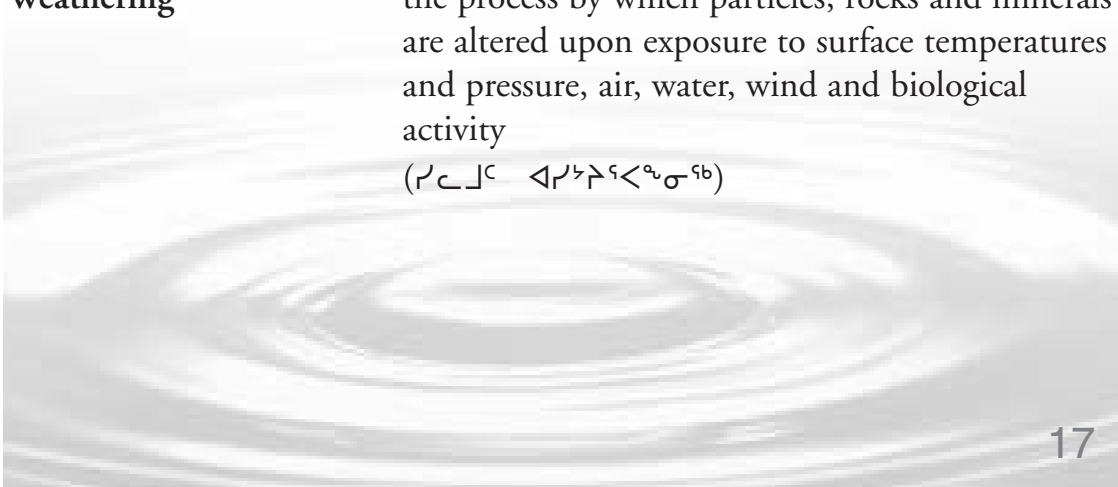
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| Sediment | the solid material that settles from a liquid; for example mud will sink and settle at the bottom of a river or stream because it is heavier than water (ᐃᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Settling Pond | a natural or artificial water body used to contain wastewater in order to enable solids to be removed from it before it is released to the natural environment (ᑕᑦᑲᑦ ᐱᐅᐱᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Sewage | toilet wastes and greywater (ᑭᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Sewage Disposal Facilities | the area and structures designed to contain and treat sewage (ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Silt | individual mineral particles of sand and clay that can be picked up by the air or water and deposited as sediment (ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Siltation | the deposition, in a water body, of sediments (e.g. sand and clay) that appear as tiny suspended particles (ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Solid Waste Disposal Facilities | the area and associated structures designed to contain solid wastes (ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |
| Solubility | the quantity of material that dissolves in a given volume of water (ᐃᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ) |



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| Sump | an excavation for the purpose of catching or storing liquids such as greywater; the water drains into the soil (ልጠኞቻቸውን ለማግኘት) |
| Suspended Solids | organic and inorganic particles, such as solids from wastewater, sand, and clay, that are suspended and carried in water (ርግጥ ስር ለሚገኙ ለልጠኞች ለሚገኙ) |
| Tailings | portions of washed or milled ore that are regarded as too poor to be treated further, as distinguished from concentrates, or material of value (ለጥሬ ስራ ለማግኘት ለማግኘት) |
| Toxic | poisonous, or otherwise directly harmful to life (ጋዳጅ ማድረግ) |
| Turbidity | particles, suspended in water or wastewater, that interfere with the passage of light; high turbidity makes water appear unclear or cloudy and is harmful to organisms such as fish (ልጠኞች ማድረግ) |
| Waste | a substance that is useless to the organism or system that produces it and requires disposal (ለጠገን ማድረግ) |
| Waste Disposal Facilities | facilities designated for the disposal of liquid or solid wastes (የጠገን ማድረግ ለጠገን ማድረግ) |
| Waste Rock | all rock materials, except ore and tailings, that are produced as a result of mining operations (ጠገን ማድረግ ለጠገን ማድረግ) |

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| Water Quality | <p>the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water (ΔLD< ᄂᄂΔᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |
| Water Quality Standards | <p>fixed limits of certain chemical, physical, and biological parameters in a water body; water quality standards are established for various uses of water (e.g. drinking) (ΔLD< ᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |
| Water Table | <p>the level below where the ground is saturated with water (>ᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂ ΔLDᄂᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |
| Water Use | <p>whenever water is used by an activity or organism, either in the place it is found or by withdrawing it (ΔLD< ᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |
| Watershed | <p>the area of land from which rainfall (and/or snow melt) drains to a single point. Ridges of higher ground generally form the boundaries between watersheds, and at these boundaries, rain falling on one side flows toward the low point of one watershed, while rain falling on the other side flows toward the low point of a different watershed (ᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |
| Weathering | <p>the process by which particles, rocks and minerals are altered upon exposure to surface temperatures and pressure, air, water, wind and biological activity (ᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂᄂ)</p> |



Wetland

land that is saturated with water or submerged, at least during most of the growing season; wetlands generally include swamps, marshes and bogs
(ᐃᓃᐱᐁᐱᐁᐱᐁᐱᐁᐱᐁ)

