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# Glossary

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<b>abutment</b>	A portion of a valley cross section higher in elevation than the valley floor. The slope above the valley floor.
<b>antiseep collar</b>	A constructed barrier installed perpendicular to a pipe or conduit and usually made of the same material as the pipe or conduit. Its purpose is to intercept the flow of seepage along the pipe or conduit and to make the seepage path longer.
<b>appurtenance</b>	Interrelated elements or components of a designed system, or structure.
<b>auxiliary spillway</b>	The spillway designed to convey excess water through, over, or around a dam.
<b>backslope</b>	The downstream slope of an embankment.
<b>bench mark</b>	Point of known elevation for a survey. May be in relation to National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) or assumed for a given project.
<b>berm</b>	A strip of earth, usually level, in a dam cross section. It may be located in either the upstream side slope, downstream side slope, or both.
<b>boom</b>	A floating barrier extending across a reservoir area, just upstream from the dam, to protect the side slope from erosion.
<b>borrow area</b>	An area from which earthfill materials can be taken to construct the dam.
<b>bottom width</b>	A flat, level cross section element normally in an open channel, spillway, or trench.
<b>coefficient of permeability</b>	The rate of flow of a fluid through a unit cross section of a porous mass under a unit hydraulic gradient.
<b>compaction</b>	The process by which the soil grains are rearranged to decrease void space and bring them into closer contact with one another, thereby increasing the weight of solid material per cubic foot.
<b>conduit (pipe)</b>	Any channel intended for the conveyance of water, whether open or closed.
<b>control section</b>	A part of an open channel spillway where accelerated flow passes through critical depth.
<b>core trench (excavation) of a trench)</b>	The trench in the foundation material under an earth embankment or dam in which special material is placed to reduce seepage.
<b>critical depth</b>	Depth of flow in a channel at which specific energy is a minimum for a given discharge.
<b>cross section</b>	A section formed by a plane cutting an area, usually at right angles to an axis.

<b>dam (earth dam)</b>	A constructed barrier, together with any associated spillways and appurtenant works, across a watercourse or natural drainage area, which permanently impounds and stores water, traps sediment, and/or controls flood water.
<b>design elevation</b>	The height above a defined datum describing the required elevation of pool that will provide the required temporary storage.
<b>diaphragm</b>	See Antiseep collar.
<b>drain</b>	An appurtenance installed in the dam and/or its foundation to safely collect and discharge seepage water.
<b>drawings</b>	A graphical representation of the planned details of the work of improvements.
<b>drop inlet</b>	A vertical entrance joined to a barrel section of a principal spillway system.
<b>earthfill</b>	Soil, sand, gravel, or rock construction materials used to build a dam and its components.
<b>effective fill height</b>	The difference in elevation in feet between the lowest auxiliary spillway crest and the lowest point in the original <b>cross</b> section on the centerline of the dam. If there is no auxiliary spillway, the top of the dam becomes the upper limit.
<b>embankment</b>	A structure of earth, gravel, or similar material raised to form a dam.
<b>excavated pond</b>	A reservoir constructed mainly by excavation in flat terrain. A relatively short embankment section on the downstream watercourse side may be necessary for desired storage amount.
<b>exit channel (of an open channel spillway)</b>	The portion downstream from the control section that conducts the flow to a point where it may be released without jeopardizing the dam.
<b>fill height</b>	The difference in elevation between the existing ground line and the proposed top of dam elevation, including allowance for settlement.
<b>filter and drainage diaphragm</b>	A soil piping and water seepage control device installed perpendicular to a pipe or conduit, consisting of a single, or multizones of, aggregate. Its purpose is to intercept the water flow along pipes or conduits and prevent the movement of soil particles that makeup the embankment.
<b>flow depth</b>	The depth of water in the auxiliary spillway or any other channel.
<b>foundation</b>	The surface upon which a dam is constructed.
<b>freeboard</b>	The difference in elevation between the minimum settled elevation of the top of dam and the highest elevation of expected depth of flow through the auxiliary spillway.

<b>hooded or canopy inlet</b>	A fabricated assembly attached to the principal spillway pipe to improve the hydraulic efficiency of the overall pipe system.
<b>inlet section (of an open channel spillway)</b>	The portion upstream from the control section.
<b>mulch</b>	A natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other material, such as grain straw or paper, on the soil surface.
<b>outlet channel</b>	A section of open channel downstream from all works of improvement.
<b>outlet section</b>	The downstream portion of an open channel or of a principal spillway.
<b>peak discharge</b>	The maximum flow rate at which runoff from a drainage area discharges past a specific point.
<b>pond</b>	A still body of water of limited size either naturally or artificially confined and usually smaller than a lake.
<b>pool area</b>	The location for storing water upstream from the dam.
<b>principal spillway</b>	The lowest ungated spillway designed to convey water from the reservoir at predetermined release rates.
<b>profile</b>	A representation of an object or structure seen from the side along its length.
<b>propped outlet</b>	A structural support to protect the outlet section of a pipe principal spillway.
<b>riprap</b>	A loose assemblage of broken stones commonly placed on the earth surface to protect it from the erosive forces of moving water or wave action.
<b>riser</b>	The vertical portion of a drop inlet.
<b>sealing</b>	The process used to close openings in soil materials and prevent seepage of water.
<b>sediment</b>	Solid material, both mineral and organic, that is being transported in suspension, or has been moved from its site of origin by water, air, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the Earth's surface either above or below the principal spillway crest.
<b>settlement</b>	Movement of an embankment or structure during the application of loads.
<b>side slope (ratio)</b>	The ratio of horizontal to vertical distance measured along the slope, either on an open channel bank or on the face of an embankment, usually expressed in "n":1, e.g., 2:1 (meaning two units horizontal to one unit vertical).
<b>site investigation</b>	Site visit to evaluate physical features of a proposed project or watershed including soils data and characteristics of the watershed.

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<b>specifications</b>	Detailed statements prescribing standards, materials, dimensions, and workmanship for works of improvement.
<b>specific discharge</b>	The theoretical flow rate through the full flow cross sectional area of a porous media.
<b>spillway</b>	An open or closed channel, conduit or drop structure used to convey water from a reservoir. It may contain gates, either manually or automatically controlled, to regulate the discharge of water.
<b>stage</b>	The elevation of a water surface above its minimum plane or datum of reference.
<b>storage volume</b>	The total volume available from the bottom of the reservoir to the top of dam.
<b>temporary storage</b>	The volume from the crest of the principal spillway to the top of dam.
<b>top width</b>	The horizontal dimension (planned or existing) across the top of dam, perpendicular to the centerline.
<b>valley floor</b>	Part of a valley cross section that is level or gently sloping.
<b>vegetative retardance</b>	The amount of hindrance to flow caused by the type, density, and height of vegetation.
<b>visual focus</b>	An element in the landscape upon which the eyes automatically focus because of the element's size, form, color, or texture contrast with its surroundings.