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## General Terms and Definitions used on EEA's Data Portal for MassDEP

- 1) **Administrative Consent Order (ACO); Administrative Consent order, no penalty; Administrative Consent Order, with penalty (ACOP):** The Department generally prefers settlement to litigation and, to that end, will exercise its authority to issue Administrative Consent Orders. These are enforceable documents, negotiated and agreed to between the regulated entity against whom noncompliance is alleged, and/or who may be obligated to comply with applicable regulations or deadlines, and MassDEP. ACOPs, which require and set the terms for compliance with applicable regulations at issue, and the terms for penalty payment, can include out of pocket and/or suspended penalties, and may also contain stipulated penalties. ACOs, which parties can agree to in order to establish and memorialize clean-up or remediation deadlines, or other scheduled activities, contain only stipulated penalties, which are contingent upon performance. Administrative Consent Orders typically obviate the need for issuance of Unilateral Administrative Order (see *infra*.) and are not subject to appeal.
- 2) **Administrative Order** - "Administrative order" (also known as "unilateral order" or "order") means a document, generally subject to appeal, issued by MassDEP to one or more regulated entities, that: (1) specifies a requirement(s) with which the regulated entity failed to comply; (2) specifies an occasion(s) on which the alleged noncompliance was discovered; and (3) requires the regulated entity to take appropriate response action to achieve and/or maintain compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements by a specific date or dates.
- 3) **Analyte** – A chemical substance being measured.
- 4) **Blank** - A sample of analyte-free media.
- 5) **Boil Water Order** - *Boil Water Orders* are preventative measures issued to protect public health from waterborne infectious agents that could be, or are known to be, present in drinking water. When necessary, MassDEP issues such Orders to local public water suppliers, which then issue advisories to consumers advising them to boil tap water used for drinking and other human-consumption.

- 6) **Demand Action** – A *Demand Action* is a formal notice, in letter format, from MassDEP demanding that the recipient party comply with certain regulatory requirements, and/or take action under a previously executed agreement. Demand Actions are not subject to appeal.
- 7) **DEP Facility** – A term MassDEP created for “*Facility Type*” for our information systems to describe facilities that have multiple permits and may be regulated by multiple programs; or an entity that MassDEP has regulatory actions against, such as Inspections and Enforcement, that did not meet criteria to be regulated by a program.
- 8) **Expedited Penalty Assessment Notice** - (EXPAN): An Expedited Penalty Assessment Notice (“EXPAN”) is a type of PAN (see infra.) that MassDEP may issue: (1) during, or within a short period of time following an inspection; (2) in response to six or fewer violations of requirements specifically identified by MassDEP as qualifying for use of an EXPAN; and (3) for which a Notice of Noncompliance (“NON”) (see infra.) or Field Notice of Noncompliance (“FNON”) (see infra.) has previously been issued. Like PANS, EXPANS can be appealed.
- 9) **Federal Administrative Order against Public Water Supply** - An *Administrative Order* that is issued by EPA, not MassDEP, to a Public Water Supply (“PWS”).
- 10) **Federal Notice of Noncompliance against Public Water Supply** - A *Notice of Noncompliance* that is issued by EPA, not MassDEP, to a PWS.
- 11) **Field notice of noncompliance** - (Field NON or FNON) A *Notice of Noncompliance* issued by MassDEP that may be issued in the field immediately following an inspection, in response to six or fewer violations of requirements that are specifically identified by MassDEP as qualifying for a FNON.
- 12) **For General Permit Use** – A generic catch all for facilities
- 13) **MCL - Maximum contaminant level**: the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

14) **MDL - Method Detection Limit:** The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

15) **Method** - Approved EPA methods for measuring the concentration of a substance or pollutant.

16) **Notice of noncompliance - (NON)** – A written notice given to a regulated entity by MassDEP and which says that the regulated entity has failed to comply on any specified occasion with one or more requirements. 310 CMR 5.00, specifically at 5.12, prescribes that, in order to assess a penalty for continued noncompliance, a written notice alleging noncompliance must specify:

- The requirement(s) with which the regulated entity failed to comply;
- Occasion(s) on which the alleged noncompliance was observed or discovered by MASSDEP;
- A reasonable deadline or deadlines by which the regulated entity is required either to
  - i) Come into compliance with the requirement(s) described in the NON, or
  - ii) Submit to MassDEP a written proposal setting forth how and when the regulated entity proposes to comply with the requirement(s) described in the NON (310 CMR 5.12(2)).

17) **Operations** - Apparent records tied to all programs.

18) **Penalty Assessment Notice (PAN)** - A *Penalty Assessment Notice* ("PAN") is a formal, written type of demand action, issued by MassDEP, that concerns payment to the Commonwealth of civil administrative monies deemed due and owing. PANs are subject to appeal.

19) **Reporting Penalty Assessment Notice (RPAN)** – Also known as a Simplified Penalty Assessment Notice. The expedited PAN includes a pre-assessed penalty for violations of required submittal requirements for several MassDEP programs.

20) **Standardized Penalty Assessment Notice (SPAN)** – See RPAN also. The expedited PAN includes a pre-assessed penalty for violations of required submittal requirements for MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup.

21) **Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO)** – MassDEP is authorized to issue a *Unilateral Administrative Order* ("UAO") to a regulated entity for purported violation of applicable laws over which MassDEP has jurisdiction. A UAO is not a negotiated document. It is issued unilaterally by MassDEP to a regulated entity and will specify the obligations with which the regulated entity has purportedly failed to comply, the dates on which such purported noncompliance was discovered, and the requirements and timelines that the regulated entity must implement and fulfill in order to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance. UAOs are subject to appeal.

## Definitions for the Drinking Water Program Data Search

1. **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are enforceable standards.
2. **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. MRDLs are enforceable standards.
3. **mg/L** - Units are in milligrams per liter unless otherwise noted. Milligrams per liter are equivalent to parts per million (PPM).
4. **pCi/L** - picoCuries per liter: A Curie is a unit of radioactivity equivalent to 1 gram of radium and the prefix "pico" means a trillionth.
5. **mrem** – millirem: A rem is a large dose of radiation, so the millirem is one-thousandth of a rem.
6. **ug/L** – micrograms per liter
7. **C units** – color units

## Definitions for the Waste Site & Reportable Releases Search

1. **Compliance Status:** The Compliance Status provides a snapshot of where the release/site stands in the assessment and cleanup process.
2. **ADEQUATE REG** (Adequately Regulated): A site/release where response actions are being conducted following the rules of another state or federal regulatory program. As long as that work continues in a satisfactory manner, many of the Waste Site Cleanup requirements may not apply. The Adequately Regulated provisions may be found in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan at 310 CMR 40.0110.
3. **DEPMOU** (Memorandum of Understanding): A site/release where DEP has a Memorandum of Understanding or other written agreement with a responsible party which sets out a specific process and timelines for site assessment and cleanup.
4. **DEPNDS** (DEP Not a Disposal Site): (pre-1993) MassDEP has determined that these locations did not need to be reported and are not disposal sites.
5. **DEPNFA** (DEP No Further Action): (pre-1993) Response actions were conducted for the release/site and MassDEP determined that no further action was needed for the site.
6. **DPS** (Downgradient Property Status): A site where a DPS Submittal to DEP has stated that contamination on the property is coming from an up-gradient property. Because the source of contamination is not within the control of the downgradient property owner/operator, certain requirements and deadlines are suspended as long as DPS remains in effect. The Downgradient Property Status provisions may be found in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan at 310 CMR 40.0180.
7. **DPSTRM** (Downgradient Property Status Terminated): A site where Downgradient Property Status has been terminated.
8. **INVSUB** (Invalid Submittal): A site closure document (e.g., RAO or PSNC) that was submitted for the site has been determined to be invalid by DEP.
9. **LSPNFA** (LSP No Further Action): (pre-1993) means that response actions were conducted and an LSP has determined that no further action was needed for the site.
10. **PENNDNS** (Pending Not a Disposal Site): (pre-1993) a document was submitted to MassDEP asserting that these locations did not need to be reported and are not disposal sites. These submittals are considered pending until MassDEP audits them.
11. **PENNFA** (Pending No Further Action): (pre-1993) A document was submitted to MassDEP asserting that a site assessment had determined that no further action was required. These submittals are considered pending until MassDEP audits them.
12. **PSNC** (Permanent Solution with No Conditions): (post-2014) A site/release where a Permanent Solution Statement was submitted indicating that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of No Significant Risk for all current and foreseeable future uses of the site without the need to restrict the use of the property.

13. **PSC** (Permanent Solution with Conditions): (post-2014) A site/release where a Permanent Solution Statement was submitted indicating that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of No Significant Risk for all current uses of the property, but that the conditions remaining at the site (such as anthropogenic background or contamination located under a parking lot) may limit how the property can be used without additional cleanup. Certain PSC closures require a deed notice or deed restriction, called an "Activity and Use Limitation" or "AUL".
14. **RAO** (Response Action Outcome): (pre-2014) A site/release where a Permanent or Temporary Solution Statement (formerly RAO Statement) was submitted. This statement asserts that response actions were sufficient to achieve a level of no significant risk (for Permanent Solutions) or at least ensure that all substantial hazards (for Temporary Solutions) were eliminated.
15. **RAORCD** (RAO Statement Received): (pre-2014) An RAO statement was received for this site. This status has been eliminated.
16. **REMOPS** (Remedy Operation Status): A site where a remedial system which relies upon Active Operation and Maintenance is being operated for the purpose of eventually achieving a Permanent Solution.
17. **ROSTRM** (Remedy Operation Status Terminated): A site which had previously had Remedy Operation Status (REMOPS) but where Remedy Operation Status has been terminated.
18. **RTN Closed**: Future response actions addressing the release associated with this Release Tracking Number (RTN) will be conducted as part of the response actions planned for the site under another "primary" RTN. This occurs at sites where multiple releases (RTNs) have been combined under one primary RTN to simplify and streamline timelines and deadlines.
19. **SPECPR** (Special Project): The site has Special Project status, which allows for modified timelines and deadlines for complex projects.
20. **STMRET** (Statement Retracted): An RAO Statement that had been submitted for the site has been retracted.
21. **TCEXT** (Tier Classification Extension) A Tier Classification Extension has been received for the release/site.
22. **TCLASS** (Tier Classification): A site/release where a Tier Classification Submittal was received, but the classification type has not been confirmed by DEP.
23. **TIER 1**: Site has been classified as Tier 1. Note that subcategories 1A, 1B and 1C have been discontinued as of 2014 and such sites would now be considered simply "Tier 1".
24. **TIER 2**: Site has been classified as Tier 2
25. **TIER 1D**: A site/release where the responsible party fails to provide a required submittal to DEP by a specified deadline. (Formerly Default Tier 1B.)
26. **TMPS** (Temporary Solution): (post-2014) A site/release where a Temporary Solution Statement was submitted. This statement asserts that response actions were sufficient to eliminate all substantial hazards at this time, but additional work is necessary to achieve a Permanent Solution.

27. **URAM** (Utility-Related Abatement Measure): A Release Tracking Number has been assigned to a release where an abatement measure (response action) is being or was performed in conjunction with utility-related work.
28. **UNCLASSIFIED**: A release that has not reached its Tier Classification deadline (usually one year after it was reported), and where a Permanent or Temporary Solution Statement, DPS Submittal, or Tier Classification Submittal has not been received by DEP.
29. **WCSPRM** (Waiver Completion Statement): (pre-1993) A Waiver Completion Statement has been submitted to DEP.



## Definitions for the Well Driller Search

### Well Type Definitions:

1. **Cathodic Protection:** Often known as deep groundbeds, are widely installed to protect metallic objects in contact with the ground from electrolytic corrosion, particularly structures within the oil, natural gas and water industries.
2. **Domestic:** Domestic well water is typically used by single family homeowners for private use and consumption.
3. **Geoconstruction:** Generally used to determine project conditions for construction.
4. **Geo Thermal Closed Loop:** A closed loop system consists of underground continuous piping loops that are filled with an anti-freeze-like liquid that helps transfer the ground temperature to the geothermal heat pump.
5. **Geo Thermal Open Loop:** An open loop system is connected directly to a ground water source such as a well or pond and directly pumps the water into a building to the heat pump unit where it is used for heating and cooling.
6. **Industrial:** Groundwater wells servicing for industrial purposes
7. **Injection:** An injection well is a device that places fluid deep underground into porous rock formations, such as sandstone or limestone, or into or below the shallow soil layer. The fluid may be water, wastewater, brine (salt water), or water mixed with chemicals.
8. **Irrigation:** Wells servicing farming or greenhouse operations.
9. **Monitoring:** The primary function of ground water monitoring wells is to provide subsurface access for the measurement of liquid levels and the collection of liquid samples for analysis.
10. **Recovery:** Recovery wells are used to extract contaminated groundwater and free product (phase separated on top of a given aquifer) on a long term or short term basis.
11. **Test Wells:** Test wells are part of the beginning process of finding a successful irrigation or municipal well.