



# AWWU Acronym Assistant

Acronym	Long	Use
ACE	Annual Conference & Exposition	American Water Works Association's (AWWA) annual conference for water professionals.
ACH	Automated Clearing House	A funds transfer program that must adhere to National Automated Clearing House Association standards. ACH allows for inter-bank clearing of electronic checks, payroll, and deposits for participating banks and credit unions.
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	The state authority having jurisdiction over water supply systems subject to state drinking water regulations. A state agency charged with enforcing environmental standards, responding to a sewage release, and supervising clean-up actions.
AFUDC	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction	A component on construction costs representing the net cost of borrowed funds (capitalized interest).
AKOSH	Alaska Occupational Safety and Health	The state office that focuses on reducing occupational fatalities, injuries, and illnesses.
AMS	Assessment Management System	A tool for tracking, maintaining, and calculating sewer and water assessments for parcels throughout the Municipality of Anchorage.
AMWA	Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies	An organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute	A private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States.
ASC	Annual Supply Contract	A contract achieved through a competitive process for providing goods or services to the Municipality or Utility.
ATR	Accounting Transfer Request	An accounting control document used to authorize the transfer of costs between capital projects and accounts, cancel projects, or authorize to close projects from work in progress to plant in service.
AWWA	American Water Works Association	An international nonprofit, scientific, and educational society founded in 1881 that is dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply.
AWWMA	Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association	A non-profit association that works to provide opportunities that bring knowledge, expertise, and technology to water and wastewater professionals in Alaska.

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AWWARF	American Water Works Association Research Foundation	See Water Research Foundation (WRF).
BE	Biological Evaluation	The evaluation performed by a federal agency, e.g., EPA, for use in consultation with other federal agencies – NMFS and/or FWS – in determining the potential for effects of a federal action, such as a permit, on endangered species.
CCC	Cost Containment Committee	This committee reviews each Request for Hire and provides their recommendation to the General Manager. The CCC is composed of the Employee Services Division Director and the Finance Division Director.
BO	Biological Opinion	Under the Endangered Species Act, the formal documentation of findings of NMFS or FWS with respect to a federal action causing jeopardy to a species or adverse modification of the specie's critical habitat.
CCR	Consumer Confidence Reports	Also known as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports. These reports summarize information regarding water sources used, any detected contaminants, and compliance and educational information. This report is due to customers by July 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year.
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	The use of video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a limited set of monitors. Used extensively to inspect underground sewer pipes.
CDL	Commercial Driver License	A private driver license issued by the state to afford a qualified and competent individual the privilege of operating a commercial motor vehicle.
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	The federal law enacted to fund clean-up of hazardous waste sites posing threats to public health and the environment. Also known as "Superfund".
CEU	Continuing Education Unit	A widely recognized unit of educational accomplishment defined as 10 contact hours of participated in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.
CIAC	Contributions in Aid of Construction	Contributions from customers in the form of private developments and assessments, or contributions from other governments in the form of grants.
CIB	Capital Improvement Budget	An annual budget reflecting the current year of the CIP.
CIP	Capital Improvement Program	A perpetual seven or six year plan forecast and adjusted annually with input relating to anticipated AWWU capital requirements.
CIS	Customer Information System	An integrated, automated, online customer information, accounts receivable and billing system.
CMMS	Computerized Maintenance Management System	AWWU uses Maximo to plan and track maintenance on Utility assets. See WMS.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Use</b>
CPR	Continuing Property Records	A perpetual inventory of Utility property allowing the verification of physical existence and ensuring the accurate accounting for additions and retirements.
CWA	Clean Water Act	The primary federal law in the US governing water pollution, originally enacted in 1972 and amended in 1977 and 1987. The act established the goals of eliminating releases to water of high amounts of toxic substances, eliminating additional water pollution by 1985, and ensuring that surface waters would meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation by 1983.
CWA	Customer Web Access	An interactive web site that provides customers the ability to check account balances and make payments.
CWIP	Construction Work in Progress	Plant in process of construction, but not ready for service, including equipment and vehicle purchases and research and development projects.
DAC	Direct Allocated Charges	Overhead charges allocated to capital projects.
D/BE	Disadvantage Business Enterprise	Used to ensure participation of minority or women owned businesses in State and Federal funded projects.
DBP	Disinfection By-Product	Organic or inorganic by-products of disinfection.
DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources	The state authority having jurisdiction over water rights.
EAP	Employee Assistance Program	A program designed to assist employees and/or their dependents by providing assessment, short term counseling, and referral services that help the participant identify agencies or programs that can assist in dealing with a particular problem area.
ECM	Electronic Content Management	The technologies, strategies, methods and tools used to capture, manage, store, preserve, and deliver content and documents related to an organization and its processes.
EDM	Electronic Document Management	A computer system (or set of computer programs) used to track and store electronic documents and/or images of paper documents.
ERP	Emergency Response Plan	Used in the event of a natural or man-made disaster to guide the Utility in returning the municipality to normal operations.
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	A company-wide computer software system used to manage and coordinate all the resources, information, and functions of a business from shared data stores. Software for finance, project control data, and human resources.
ESA	Endangered Species Act	The 1973 federal legislation that outlined procedures for federal agencies to follow to reduce the potential eradication of species of plants and animals due to effects of human activity.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Use</b>
FAR	Funding Authorization Request	An internal document that satisfies a variety of monitoring, accounting, reporting, auditing, regulatory and management requirements. A FAR documents the planning, funding, implementation and successful completion of the capital improvement program.
FTP	File Transfer Protocol	A method of using an intermediate storage location to transfer large digital files between computer systems.
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service	The federal agency tasked with management of terrestrial and inland water species.
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles	The term used to refer to the standard framework of guidelines for financial accounting used in any given jurisdiction. GAAP includes the standards, conventions, and rules accountants follow in recording and summarizing transactions, and in the preparation of financial statements.
GAC	Granular Activated Carbon	Used for water treatment, eliminating odors, and separating components of a flow system.
GIS	Geographic Information System	Any information system that integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, and displays geographic information.
GPS	Global Positioning System	A global navigation satellite system developed by the US Department of Defense.
GPS	GPS Tracking	A device that uses the GPS to determine the precise location of a vehicle, person, or other asset to which it is attached and to record the position of the asset at regular intervals.
ICR	Information Collection Rule	A federal regulation stipulating monitoring requirements for disinfection byproducts, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia Lambia.
ITB	Invitation to Bid	A formal solicitation whose general award criterion is based primarily on price.
IVR	Interactive Voice Response	An interactive telephone system that provides customers the ability to check account balances, make payments, and a system whereby the Utility provides notification to customers on both planned and emergency outages.
LOS/PM	Levels of Service/Performance Measurements	The performance of a system. Certain goals are defined and the levels of service and performance measurements give the percentage to which they should be achieved.
LUC	Levy Upon Connection	By vote of the owners of a set of contiguous properties, landowners elect to implement new capital infrastructure, including water and sewer.
MARS	Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable System	Used to bill miscellaneous non-recurring charges
MASS	Municipality of Anchorage Standard Specifications	The standard construction practices adopted by the Municipality of Anchorage for all construction activities.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Use</b>
MBE/DWBE	Minority Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Women's Business Enterprise	Businesses are certified by the State of Alaska or Small Business Administration.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	The highest permissible concentration of a substance allowed in drinking water, as established by the USEPA.
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet	Chemical hazard identification forms that advise employers in the safe handling of hazardous chemicals.
MUSA	Municipal Utility Service Assessment	A payment-in-lieu-of-property taxes that AWWU pays the Municipality of Anchorage on the value of all AWWU plant (assets).
NACWA	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	A dynamic national organization, involved in all facets of water quality protection.
NARUC	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners	A non-profit organization whose members include governmental agencies engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers.
NIMS	National Incident Management System	Developed by the Department of Homeland Security and released in March 2004, it establishes a uniform set of processes and procedures that emergency responders at all levels of government will use to conduct response operations.
NMFS	National Marine Fishery Service	Lead federal agency regarding marine mammal endangered species, particularly beluga whales.
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issues wastewater discharge permits for Publicly Owned Treatment Works under the NPDES program.
OEO	Office of Equal Opportunity	The MOA office that assists in resolving employee allegations of discrimination and/or harassment.
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	An agency of the US Department of Labor. It was created by Congress under the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970. Its mission is to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths by issuing and enforcing rules (called standards) for workplace safety and health.
P&P	Policy & Procedures	A document to standardize Utility operating processes and assist with accomplishing Utility objectives.
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls	A class of organic compounds with 1 to 10 chlorine atoms attached to biphenyl, which is a molecule composed of two benzene rings. PCB's were widely used for many applications, especially as dielectric fluids in transformers and capacitors and coolants. Due to PCBs toxicity, PCB production was banned by the United States Congress in 1976.
PIO	Public Information Officer	An individual who represents the Utility to the news media.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Use</b>
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller	A computer device usually located in a local control panel that controls an industrial process via a number of logical steps.
R&R	Renovation and Rehabilitation	A capital project that makes either an improvement (also known as a betterment) or replaces an existing plant in service.
RAPA	Regulatory Affairs & Public Advocacy	Section of the Civil Division of the State of Alaska Department of Law. Established in July 2003 within the Department of Law to advocate on behalf of the public interest in utility matters that come before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA or Commission). AS 44.23.020(e).
RCA	Regulatory Commission of Alaska	A state agency that regulates public utilities by certifying qualified providers of public utility and pipeline services and ensuring that they provide safe and adequate services and facilities at just and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions.
RFP	Request for Proposal	A formal solicitation whose general award criteria are based on factors other than cost alone.
RFQ	Request for Quotation	A less formal solicitation document that contains essentially the same requirements as an invitation to bid but in abbreviated form.
SAN	Storage Area Network	An architecture to attach remote computer storage devices (such as disk arrays, tape libraries, and optical jukeboxes) to servers in such a way that the devices appear as locally attached to the operating system.
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition	Automated control and data gathering system that AWWU uses to monitor and control key facilities and or key processes within these facilities.
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act	The principal federal law in the United States that ensures safe drinking water for the public.
SRF	State Revolving Fund	A fund administered by a state for the purpose of providing low-interest loans for investments in water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as for the implementation of nonpoint source pollution control and estuary protection projects.
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow	A situation where the Utility sanitary sewer system is clogged or overloaded and sewage has overflowed onto an adjoining street, land, or private property; or when sewage backs-up into or floods a customer's structure.
TA	Travel Authorization	The form showing the trip details and approval.
VOC	Volatile Organic Chemical	Lightweight organic compounds that vaporize, or evaporate, easily. Typically used to describe a class of drinking water contaminants as regulated by EPA.
VON	Verification of Necessity	A standardized form detailing information necessary to prioritize projects and for use in grant/loan applications.

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Long</b>	<b>Use</b>
WEF	Water Environment Federation	Trade association focused upon preserving and enhancing the global water environment.
WEFTEC	Water Environment Federation Technical exhibition and conference	Annual technical exhibition and conference on mostly wastewater issues.
WERF	Water Environment Research Foundation	A member supported international organization providing independent scientific research dedicated to wastewater and stormwater issues.
WID	Water Improvement District	A water service area to be served by the Utility in which property owners agree to be assessed the cost of construction to provide that service.
WMS	Work Management System	Software used to manage work orders for capital and operating projects, plan and schedule work, and record assets and retirements. AWWU uses Maximo to plan and track maintenance on Utility assets. Also known more generically as CMMS.
WRF	Water Research Foundation	Formerly known as the American Water Works Association Research Foundation. This is a member supported international organization that sponsors research to enable water utilities, public health agencies, and other professionals to provide safe and affordable drinking water to customers.