

APPENDIX 8

HYDROLOGIC CYCLE

The following information is from the Illinois Water Supply Planning webpage at the Illinois State Water Survey located at <http://www.sws.uiuc.edu/wsp/watercycle/>

Basic Water Cycle

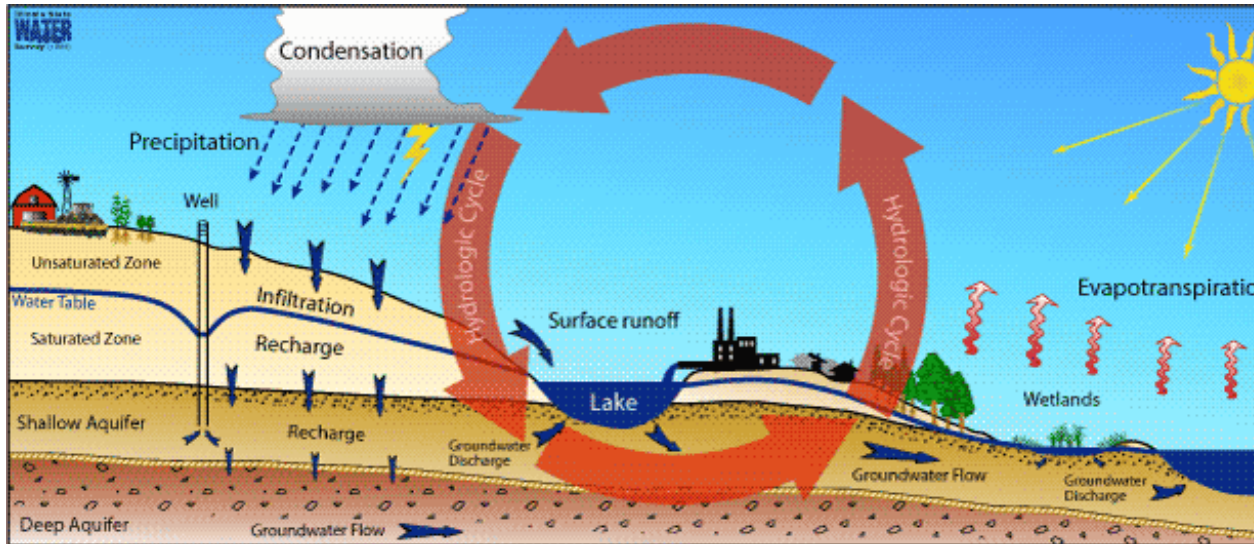


Fig. 1 The Water (Hydrologic) Cycle

The water cycle depicts water moving through the atmosphere and on and under the surface of the earth. Another term for the water cycle is hydrologic cycle. Water moves

- downward as **precipitation**, into the soil and through the unsaturated zone as **infiltration**, and through the saturated zone to shallow and deep aquifers as **recharge**;
- laterally on the surface as **surface runoff** to lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers and underground as **groundwater flow**;
- upward as **evapotranspiration** from lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers, plants, soil, and groundwater, and as **groundwater discharge** to surface waters; and
- laterally aloft as atmospheric moisture, where **condensation** forms clouds.

Arrows depict movements in the water (hydrologic) cycle.