

How Water Conducts Electricity

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/streams/status_trend/cond.html



Specific Conductance (COND)

Status and Trends

Specific Conductance (COND) is a measure of how well water can conduct an electrical current. Conductivity increases with increasing amount and mobility of ions. These ions, which come from the breakdown of compounds, conduct electricity because they are negatively or positively charged when dissolved in water. Therefore, COND is an indirect measure of the presence of dissolved solids such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, sodium, magnesium, calcium, and iron, and can be used as an indicator of water pollution.

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