

is the first one, [14][15] and risks are higher when contaminants are mobile in the sediment [14] or bioavailable in the water. Mine drainage can modify water pH, [16] and it is hard to differentiate direct impact on organisms from impacts caused by pH changes. Effects can nonetheless be observed and proved to be caused by pH modifications. [15] Contaminants can also affect aquatic organisms through physical effects: [15] streams with high concentrations of suspended sediment limit light, thus diminishing algae biomass. [17] Metal oxide deposition can limit biomass by coating algae or their substrate, thereby preventing colonization. [15]

**Preview from Notesale.co.uk**  
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