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ABSTRACT

There is increasing interest and need to develop a deeper understanding of the nature, fate and behavior of nanoparticles in the environment. This is driven by the increased use of engineered nanoparticles and the increased pressure to commercialize this growing technology. In this review we discuss the key properties of nanoparticles and their preparation and then discuss how these factors can play a role in determining their fate and behavior in the natural environment. Key focus of the discussion will relate to the surface chemistry of the nanoparticle, which may interact with a range of molecules naturally present in surface waters and sediments. Understanding these factors is a core goal required for understanding the final fate of nanomaterials and predicting which organisms are likely to be exposed to these materials.

KEY WORDS: Nanoparticle

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