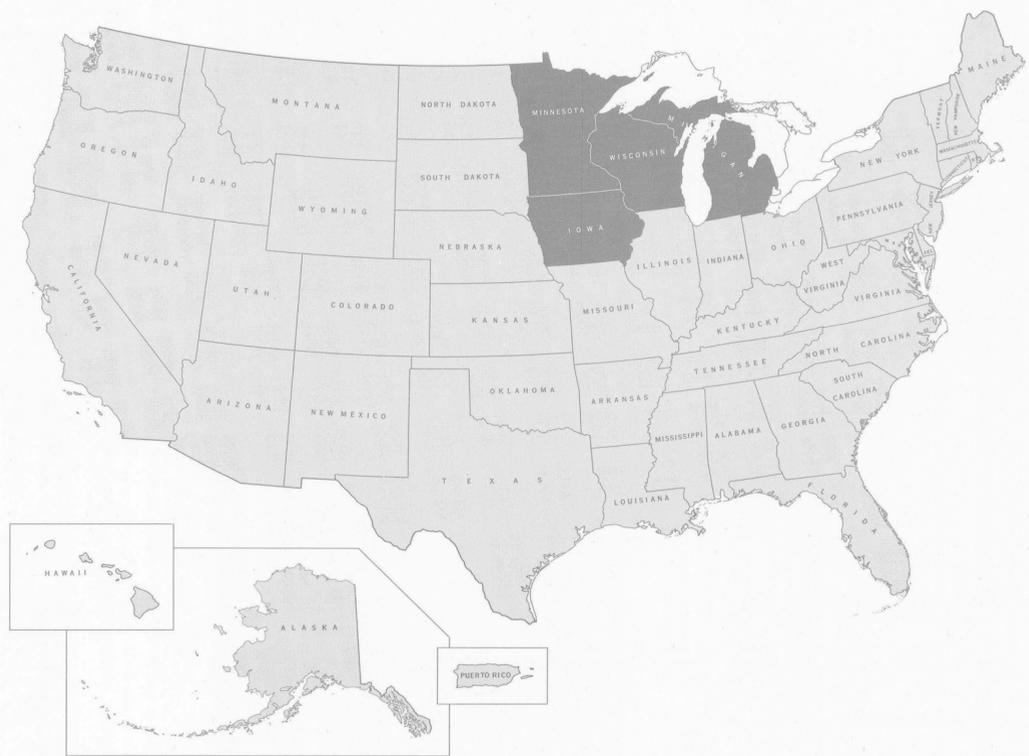


GROUND WATER ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES

SEGMENT 9

Iowa
Michigan
Minnesota
Wisconsin



HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS ATLAS 730-J
U.S. Geological Survey



Reston, Virginia
1992

GROUND WATER ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES

Hydrologic Investigations Atlas 730-J

FOREWORD

The Ground Water Atlas of the United States presents a comprehensive summary of the Nation's ground-water resources, and is a basic reference for the location, geography, geology, and hydrologic characteristics of the major aquifers in the Nation. The information was collected by the U.S. Geological Survey and other agencies during the course of many years of study. Results of the U.S. Geological Survey's Regional Aquifer-System Analysis Program, a systematic study of the Nation's major aquifers, were used as a major, but not exclusive, source of information for compilation of the Atlas.

The Atlas, which is designed in a graphical format that is supported by descriptive discussions, includes 13 chapters, each representing regional areas that collectively cover the 50 States and Puerto Rico. Each chapter of the Atlas presents and describes hydrogeologic and hydrologic conditions for the major aquifers in each regional area. The scale of the Atlas does not allow portrayal of minor features of the geology and hydrology of each aquifer presented, nor does it include discussion of minor aquifers. Those readers that seek detailed, local information for the aquifers will find extensive lists of references at the end of each chapter.

An introductory chapter presents an overview of ground-water conditions Nationwide and discusses the effects of human activities on water resources, including saltwater encroachment and land subsidence.



Dallas L. Peck

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MANUEL LUJAN, JR., *Secretary*



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Dallas L. Peck, *Director*

CONVERSION FACTORS

For readers who prefer to use the International System (SI) units, rather than the inch-pound terms used in this report, the following conversion factors may be used:

Multiply inch-pound units	By	To obtain metric units
	Length	
inch (in)	2.54	centimeter (cm)
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter (m)
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer (km)
	Area	
square mile (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometer (km ²)
	Flow	
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)	0.02832	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second (L/s)
million gallons per day (Mgal/d)	0.04381	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
billion gallons per day (Bgal/d)	3.785	million cubic meters per day (Mm ³ /d)
	Transmissivity	
foot squared per day (ft ² /d)	0.0929	meter squared per day (m ² /d)
	Temperature	
degree Celsius (°C)	9/5 (°C)+32=°F	degree Fahrenheit (°F)

Sea Level: In this report, "sea level" refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929)—a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of both the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929.

ATLAS ORGANIZATION

The Ground Water Atlas of the United States is divided into 14 chapters. Chapter A presents introductory material and nationwide summaries; chapters B through M describe all principal aquifers in a multistate segment of the conterminous United States; and chapter N describes all principal aquifers in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

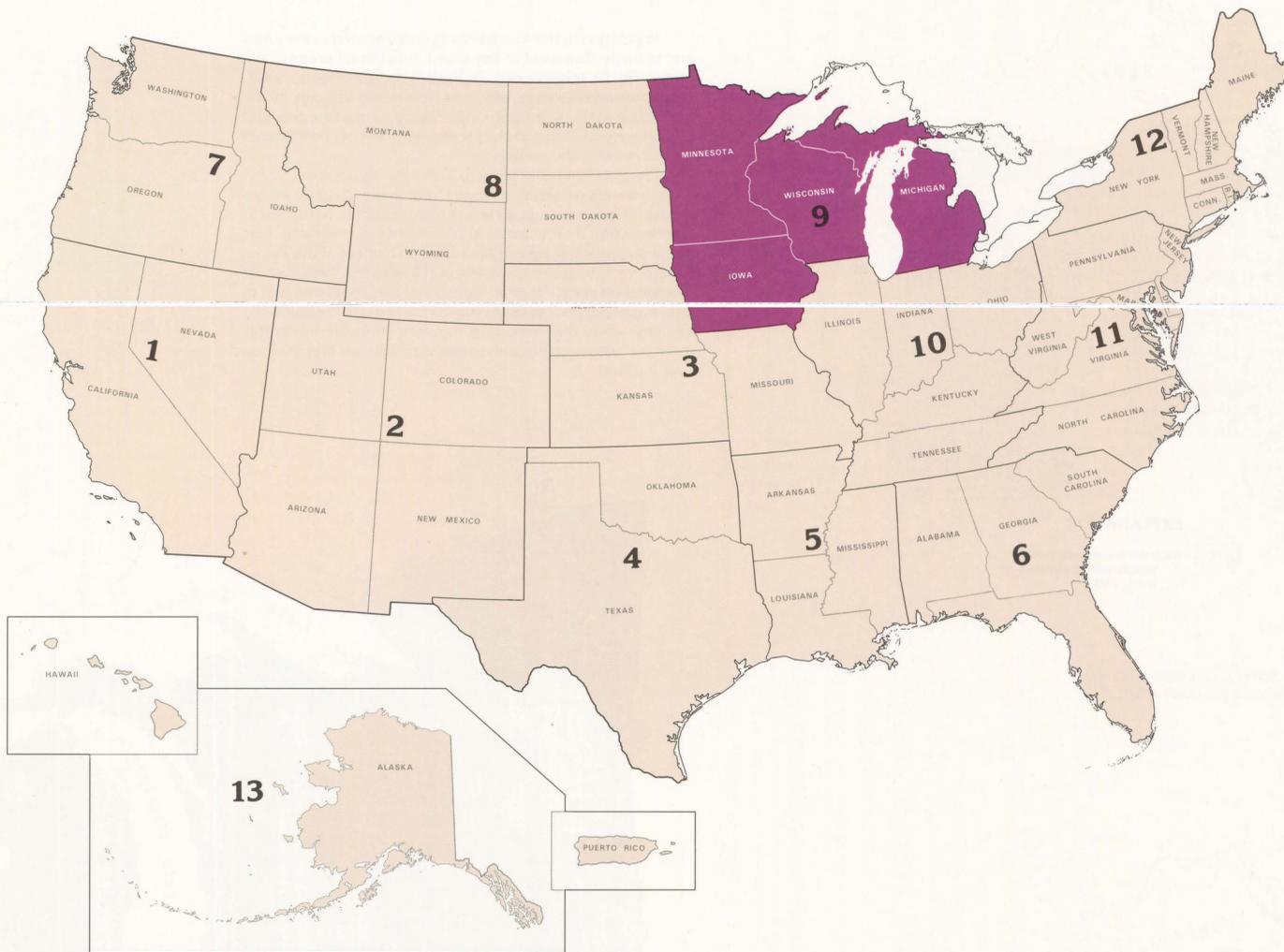
Segment Number	Chapter content	Hydrologic Atlas Chapter
—	Introductory material and nationwide summaries	730-A
1	California, Nevada	730-B
2	Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah	730-C
3	Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	730-D
4	Oklahoma, Texas	730-E
5	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi	730-F
6	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina	730-G
7	Idaho, Oregon, Washington	730-H
8	Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming	730-I
9	Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin	730-J
10	Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee	730-K
11	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	730-L
12	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	730-M
13	Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico	730-N

GROUND WATER ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES

SEGMENT 9

IOWA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN

By Perry G. Olcott



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INTRODUCTION

Segment 9, which consists of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan, abuts the Canadian border in the upper Midwest and lies adjacent to or surrounds four of the Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie. Thousands of small to large lakes similar to the one shown in figure 1 dot the landscape, which is drained by numerous rivers and streams tributary primarily to the Mississippi River in the west and to the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River system in the east. These abundant surface-water sources represent an ample supply of water to large users, such as the cities of Milwaukee, Wis., and Detroit, Mich. However, water stored in unconsolidated and consolidated sedimentary-rock aquifers that underlie the four States also is in abundant supply and is an economical source that can be used for nearly any purpose, usually with little or no treatment. In more than 95 percent of the four-State area, these aquifers supply water to a broad spectrum of consumers—from individual households to cities, such as St. Paul, Minn., Madison, Wis., and Lansing, Mich. These aquifers are the subject of this chapter. The geology and the hydrology of each of the principal aquifers are illustrated and discussed insofar as information was available from the literature. Hydrogeology, ground-water flow, availability and quality of water, and freshwater withdrawals from each of the aquifers are the principal subjects of discussion.



Figure 1. The numerous lakes that dot the landscape were formed when buried ice blocks from recent continental glaciation melted to leave water-filled depressions.

Regional summary

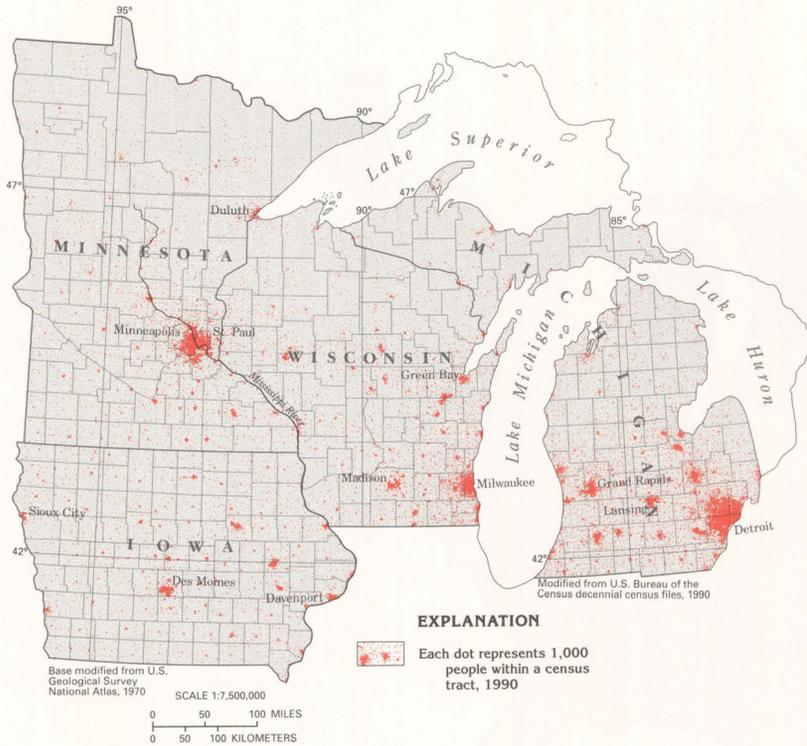


Figure 2. Population in the four States is concentrated in the cities and is thinly dispersed in the broad agricultural areas.

Population in the four States is concentrated in the cities and is thinly dispersed in the broad agricultural areas of the States (fig. 2). Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minn., Des Moines, Iowa, Milwaukee and Madison, Wis., and Detroit and Lansing, Mich., are a few of the principal cities. Many of these cities and other large population centers represent areas of concentrated ground-water withdrawals.

Precipitation is the source of all water in Segment 9. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 20 to 40 inches across the segment and generally increases from northwest to southeast (fig. 3). Precipitation is least in the northwestern part of the segment because of the orographic effect of the Rocky Mountains, which are hundreds of miles to the west. Annual precipitation in excess of 36 inches that falls south and east of Lakes Superior and Michigan (fig. 3) is a result of the prevailing westerly winds that evaporate moisture from the lakes; this moisture subsequently condenses and falls as precipitation over the land.

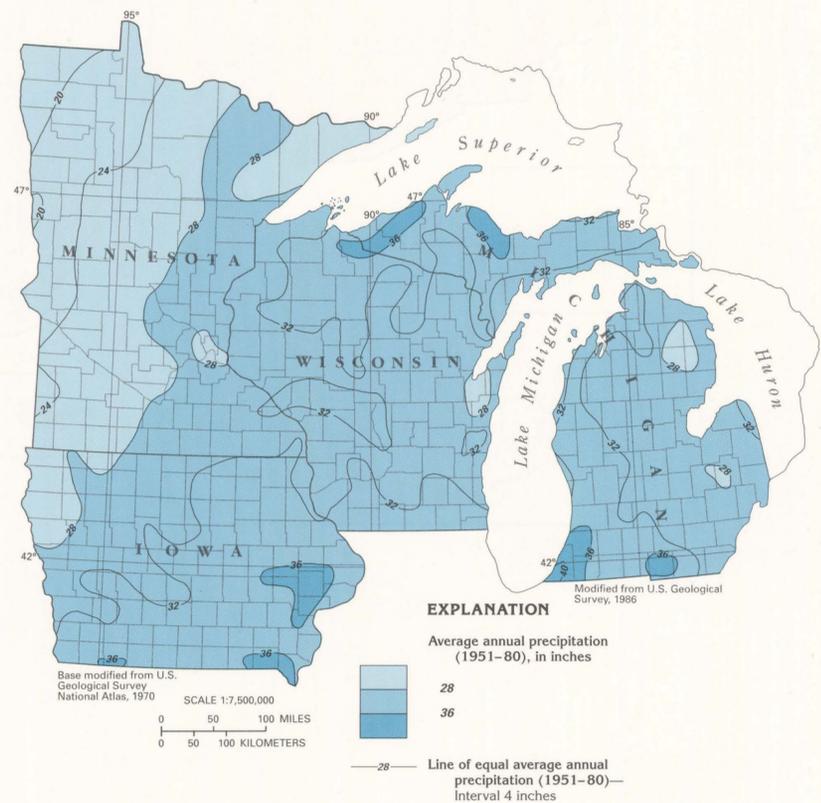


Figure 3. Average annual precipitation (1951–80) increases from about 20 to about 40 inches from northwest to southeast across the four States.

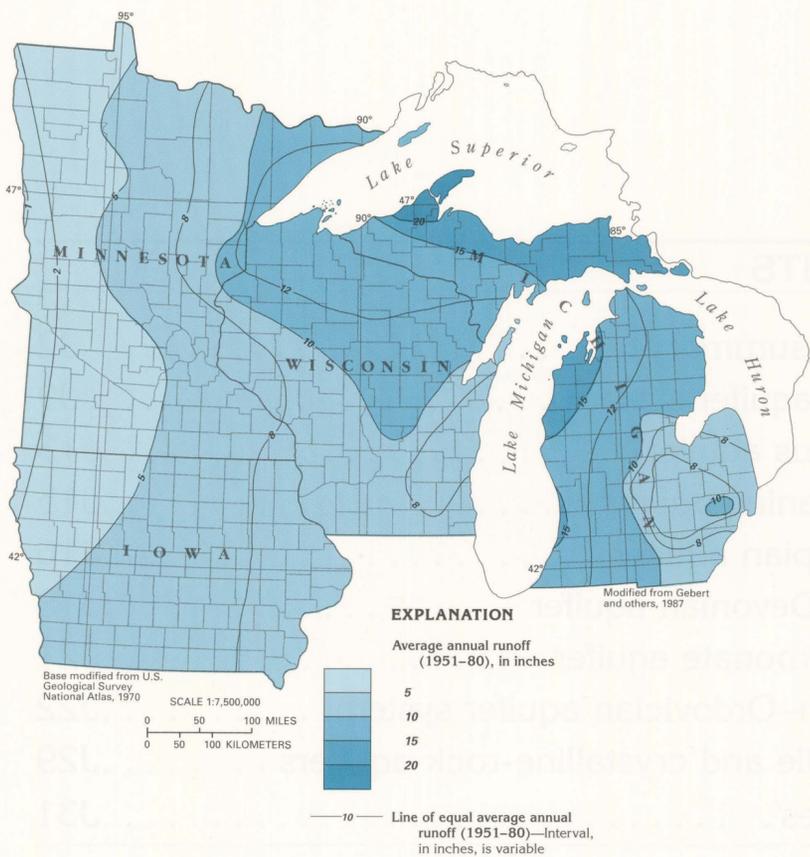


Figure 4. Average annual runoff (1951–80) generally reflects precipitation and increases from northwest to southeast. The greatest runoff is downwind from Lakes Superior and Michigan.

Average annual runoff in rivers and streams (fig. 4) generally reflects average annual precipitation patterns (fig. 3). Runoff generally increases from less than 1 to more than 20 inches. Runoff also tends to be substantial downwind from Lakes Superior and Michigan. However, in no part of the segment does runoff exceed precipitation. Much of the water from precipitation is returned to the atmosphere by evapotranspiration—evaporation from the land and water surfaces, and transpiration by plants. Some of the water is stored in aquifers through ground-water recharge or is stored on the land surface in lakes, marshes, and reservoirs. Runoff represents water from precipitation that runs directly off the land surface to streams and water discharged to streams that was stored in lakes, marshes, reservoirs, or aquifers.

LOCATION AND EXTENT OF MAJOR AQUIFER SYSTEMS AND AQUIFERS

There are two major aquifer systems and seven major aquifers in Segment 9 consisting of rock types that range in composition from unconsolidated glacial deposits to hard crystalline rocks. An aquifer system consists of two or more aquifers that are hydraulically connected, and that function similarly in response to changes in hydrologic conditions. Because rock types generally correlate with geologic age in the segment, most aquifer systems and aquifers have been designated by age, according to local usage. The major aquifer systems and aquifers in Segment 9 are, in descending order: the surficial aquifer system, which is generally present throughout the segment; the Cretaceous aquifer in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa; the Pennsylvanian aquifer in central Michigan; the Mississippian aquifer in central and southeastern Iowa and central Michigan; the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in eastern Iowa, eastern Wisconsin, and northern and southeastern Michigan; the upper carbonate aquifer in southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa; the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in Iowa, most of southeastern Minnesota, much of Wisconsin, and northern Michigan; the Jacobsville aquifer principally in northern Michigan; and crystalline-rock aquifers in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, and northwestern Michigan.



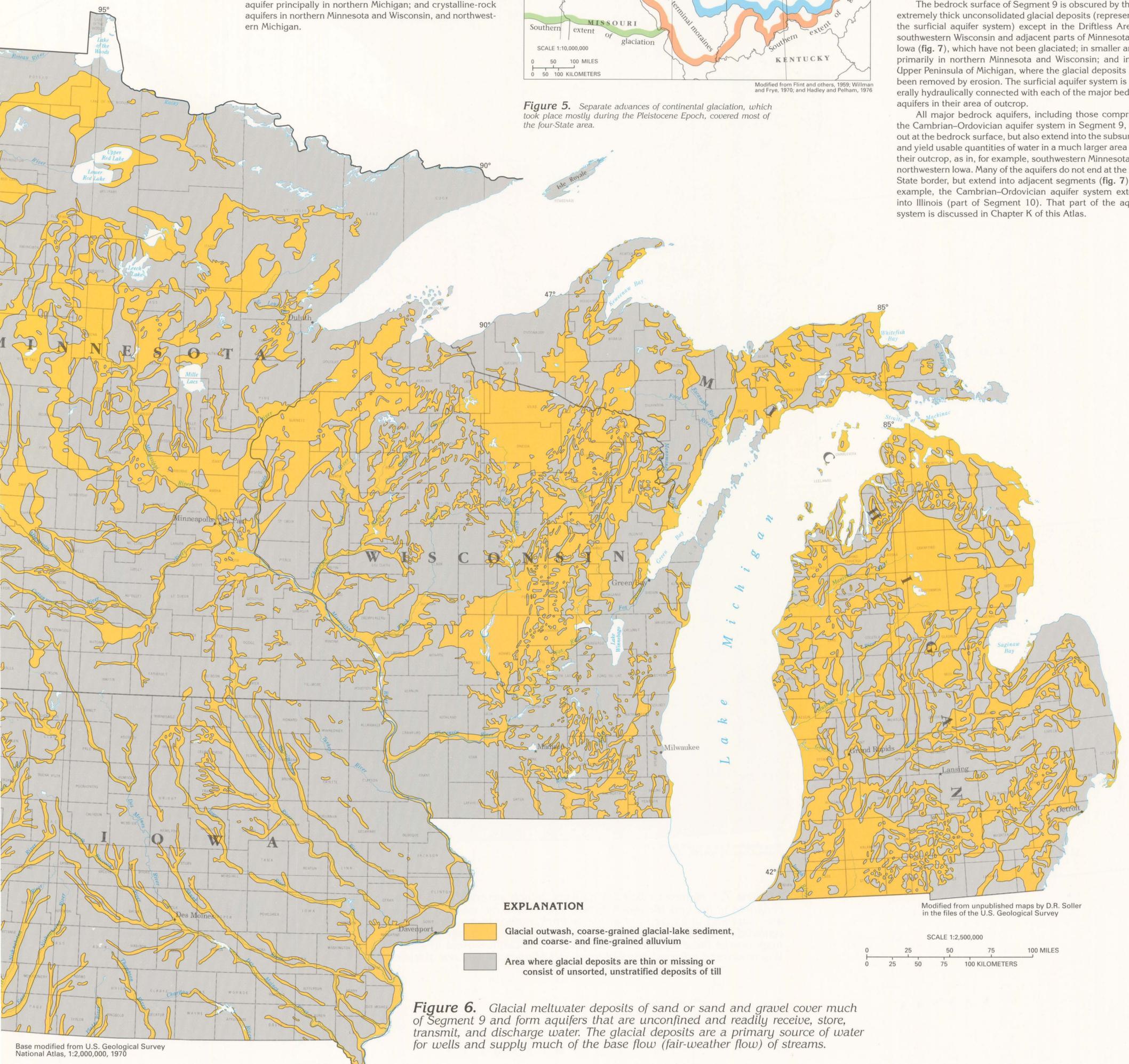
Figure 5. Separate advances of continental glaciation, which took place mostly during the Pleistocene Epoch, covered most of the four-State area.

The surficial aquifer system is the uppermost, and most widespread, aquifer system in the four-State area. This system consists primarily of material deposited during multiple advances of continental glaciers from the north (fig. 5) during the Pleistocene and, possibly, Pliocene Epochs. The massive ice sheets planed off and incorporated soil and rock fragments during advances and redistributed these materials on the eroded land surface as water- or ice-contact deposits or both during retreats. Glaciofluvial or meltwater deposits, such as outwash, lake sand, kames, and eskers, are sorted and generally stratified deposits of sand or sand and gravel. These deposits, mapped in figure 6, generally form permeable bodies of sand and gravel that are exposed at the land surface and that readily receive, store, transmit, and discharge water. They are a primary source of water for wells throughout the four-State area and supply much of the base flow (fair-weather flow) of streams. Ground and terminal moraines, which are the dominant type of ice-contact deposit, normally are poorly sorted, unstratified deposits of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders called glacial till.

Major bedrock aquifers that form the bedrock surface in Segment 9, including those that comprise the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system, are shown in figure 7, and all aquifer systems and aquifers are listed in figure 8. The surficial aquifer, for the most part, is present over the entire area.

The bedrock surface of Segment 9 is obscured by thin to extremely thick unconsolidated glacial deposits (representing the surficial aquifer system) except in the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin and adjacent parts of Minnesota and Iowa (fig. 7), which have not been glaciated; in smaller areas, primarily in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin; and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where the glacial deposits have been removed by erosion. The surficial aquifer system is generally hydraulically connected with each of the major bedrock aquifers in their area of outcrop.

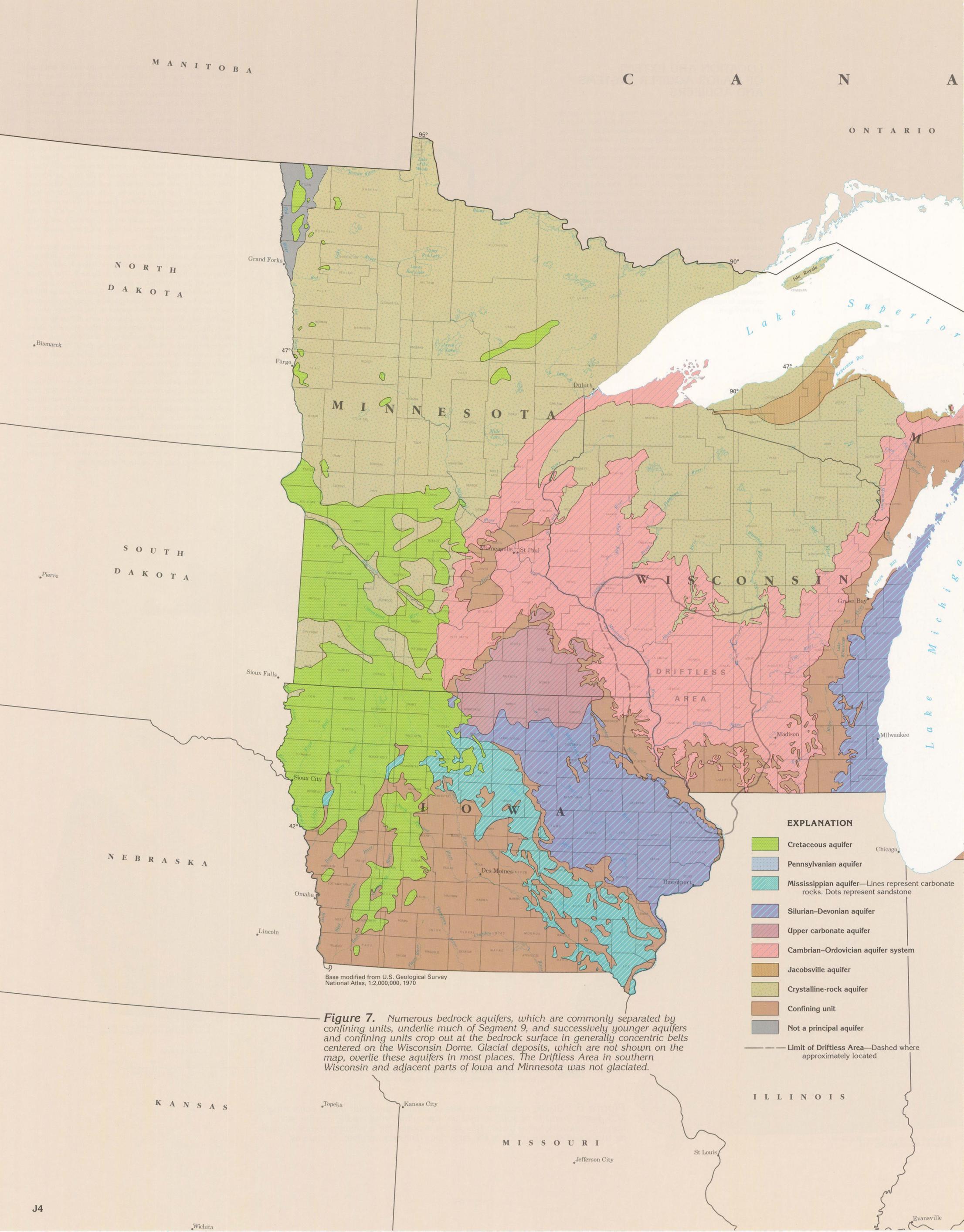
All major bedrock aquifers, including those comprising the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in Segment 9, crop out at the bedrock surface, but also extend into the subsurface and yield usable quantities of water in a much larger area than their outcrop, as in, for example, southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa. Many of the aquifers do not end at the four-State border, but extend into adjacent segments (fig. 7). For example, the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system extends into Illinois (part of Segment 10). That part of the aquifer system is discussed in Chapter K of this Atlas.



EXPLANATION

- Glacial outwash, coarse-grained glacial-lake sediment, and coarse- and fine-grained alluvium
- Area where glacial deposits are thin or missing or consist of unsorted, unstratified deposits of till

Figure 6. Glacial meltwater deposits of sand or sand and gravel cover much of Segment 9 and form aquifers that are unconfined and readily receive, store, transmit, and discharge water. The glacial deposits are a primary source of water for wells and supply much of the base flow (fair-weather flow) of streams.

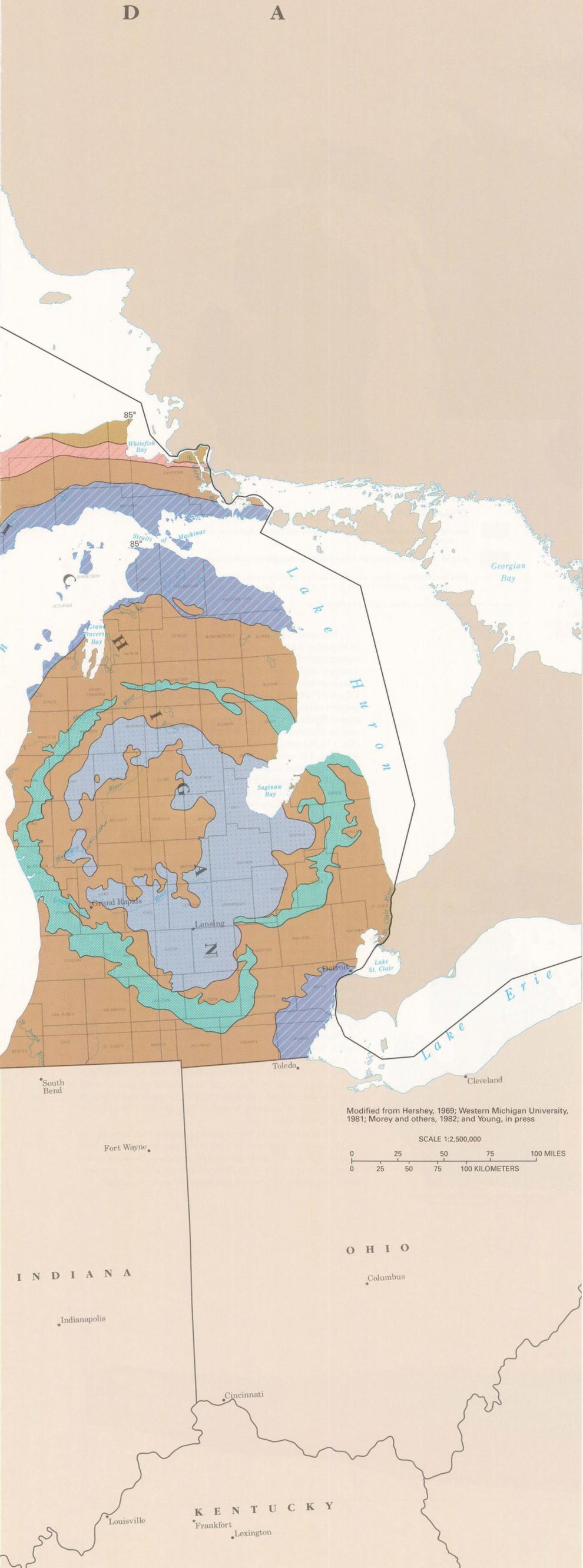


EXPLANATION

- Cretaceous aquifer
- Pennsylvanian aquifer
- Mississippian aquifer—Lines represent carbonate rocks. Dots represent sandstone
- Silurian-Devonian aquifer
- Upper carbonate aquifer
- Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system
- Jacobsville aquifer
- Crystalline-rock aquifer
- Confining unit
- Not a principal aquifer
- Limit of Driftless Area—Dashed where approximately located

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1:2,000,000, 1970

Figure 7. Numerous bedrock aquifers, which are commonly separated by confining units, underlie much of Segment 9, and successively younger aquifers and confining units crop out at the bedrock surface in generally concentric belts centered on the Wisconsin Dome. Glacial deposits, which are not shown on the map, overlie these aquifers in most places. The Driftless Area in southern Wisconsin and adjacent parts of Iowa and Minnesota was not glaciated.



Era	Geologic nomenclature	Southeastern Minnesota <small>Modified from Delin and Woodward, 1984</small>	Iowa <small>Modified from Horick and Steinhilber, 1973, 1978, and Horick, 1984</small>	Wisconsin <small>Modified from Kammerer, 1983</small>	Michigan <small>Modified from Western Michigan University, 1981</small>	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic nomenclature used in this chapter	
Cenozoic	Quaternary and late Tertiary	Undifferentiated drift aquifer	Sand and gravel aquifer	Sand and gravel aquifer	Lacustrine sand Outwash and glacio-fluvial deposits Till	Sand and gravel	Surficial aquifer system	
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Confining unit Cretaceous aquifer	Confining unit Cretaceous aquifer		Shale Sandstone	Confining unit Cretaceous aquifer ¹	
Jurassic					Red beds confining unit	Shale	Confining unit	
Paleozoic	Pennsylvanian		Pennsylvanian confining unit		Grand River-Saginaw aquifer	Sandstone	Pennsylvanian aquifer ²	
	Mississippian		Mississippian aquifer		Bayport-Michigan confining unit	Shale	Mississippian aquifer	
				Devonian confining unit		Marshall aquifer		Sandstone
						Coldwater Shale confining unit		Shale
	Devonian	Devonian aquifer	Devonian aquifer	Devonian aquifer	Devonian aquifer	Traverse aquifer	Shale	Confining unit
Silurian	Upper carbonate aquifer	Silurian aquifer	Silurian aquifer	Silurian aquifer	Confining unit Roger City-Dundee aquifer Detroit River aquifer	Dolomite and limestone		
Middle Proterozoic	Ordovician	Maquoketa Shale and Galena Dolomite	Confining unit	Maquoketa Shale confining unit	Confining unit	Shale and dolomite	Maquoketa confining unit	
		Decorah-Platteville-Glenwood confining unit	Confining unit	Galena Dolomite	Galena-Platteville aquifer Glenwood confining unit	Trenton-Black River aquifer		Dolomite Shaly dolomite
	Cambrian	St. Peter aquifer Basal St. Peter confining unit	St. Peter aquifer	St. Peter aquifer	St. Peter aquifer	Confining unit	Sandstone	St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer
		Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Confining unit Jordan aquifer ³	Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Prairie du Chien aquifer	Dolomite and sandstone	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit
		St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit	Confining unit	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit	Trempealeau aquifer	Dolomite and fine-grained sandstone	
Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer Eau Claire confining unit Mount Simon-Hinckley aquifer	Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer Eau Claire confining unit Mount Simon aquifer	Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer Eau Claire confining unit Mount Simon aquifer	Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer Eau Claire confining unit Mount Simon aquifer	Munising aquifer	Sandstone Shaly sandstone	Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer Eau Claire confining unit		
Precambrian	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Lake Superior Sandstone	Jacobsville Sandstone	Sandstone	Jacobsville aquifer ⁴	

¹Major aquifer only in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.
²Major aquifer only in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.
³Major aquifer only in southeastern Minnesota.
⁴Includes lower part of the Prairie du Chien Group and the Jordan Sandstone.
⁵Major aquifer includes the Hinckley Sandstone of Precambrian age in southeastern Minnesota.
⁶Major aquifer only in part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Figure 8. The numerous aquifers and confining units that have been named in the four States of Segment 9 are grouped into the sequence of hydrogeologic units shown in the column on the right. The gray area represents missing rocks.

IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR AQUIFER SYSTEMS AND AQUIFERS

The surficial aquifer system is the most widespread, extensively used, and easily accessible source of water in Segment 9. It consists chiefly of stratified sand and gravel, ice-contact deposits, and alluvium. Water is withdrawn from easily installed shallow wells for domestic and stock-watering uses throughout much of the segment and from deeper and larger wells for public-supply, agricultural, and industrial uses. The aquifer system stores water and transmits it either along short flow paths to streams, thus sustaining base flow, or downward to underlying aquifers, thus providing recharge to the underlying aquifers where they subcrop at the bedrock surface. Because the surficial aquifer system is highly permeable throughout much of its area and is present at the land surface, it is vulnerable to contamination from human activities.

The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system underlies parts of each of the four States of Segment 9 (figs. 7, 8) and is the second largest source of ground water for public supply, agricultural, and industrial uses in the segment. The aquifer system consists of a sandstone and dolomite aquifer and two sandstone aquifers, which are separated by less-permeable confining units. The Maquoketa confining unit caps the aquifer system where it overlies younger bedrock.

The Silurian-Devonian aquifer, which is the third largest source of ground water in the segment, underlies the eastern one-half of Iowa, eastern Wisconsin, and parts of the Upper and the Lower Peninsulas of Michigan (figs. 7, 8). This aquifer is primarily a dolomite or limestone that yields water from solutionally enlarged fractures and karst features.

The Pennsylvanian aquifer is present only in the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (figs. 7, 8); however, this aquifer is the fourth largest source of ground water in Segment 9. The aquifer consists primarily of sandstone and is the principal bedrock aquifer in the Lower Peninsula.

The Cretaceous aquifer, which is present only in western Minnesota and Iowa (figs. 7, 8), is the fifth largest source of ground water in the segment and yields nearly as much water as the Pennsylvanian aquifer. The Cretaceous aquifer, which consists primarily of sandstone, yields moderate quantities of water of marginal quality; however, the aquifer is the only source of ground water in parts of its extent and, therefore, is considered to be a major aquifer.

The Mississippian aquifer (figs. 7, 8), which is present only in Iowa and Michigan, is the sixth largest source of ground water in the segment. The aquifer is dolomitic in Iowa where it is present in the southern part of the State. This aquifer consists of sandstone in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and is a major aquifer in that area.

In southeastern Minnesota, the locally important upper carbonate aquifer (figs. 7, 8) is the seventh largest source of ground water in the segment. Karst development in a carbonate-rich part of the upper Maquoketa Formation and the Galena Dolomite (of the Maquoketa confining unit) has made these rocks extremely porous. These rocks and an overlying dolomitic Devonian formation form the upper carbonate aquifer, which is a large-yielding aquifer used for municipal and industrial supplies.

The Jacobsville aquifer in rocks of Precambrian age is adjacent to Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (figs. 7, 8) and extends into Iron County, Wisconsin. The well-hardened sandstone aquifer is the eighth largest source of ground water in the segment and yields small quantities of water adequate for domestic and small-community uses. Because the aquifer is the only source of ground water where it is present, it is considered to be a major aquifer.

The crystalline-rock aquifer (figs. 7, 8), which forms the bedrock surface throughout a large area in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, is the ninth largest source of ground water in the segment. The aquifer consists predominantly of crystalline rocks that yield small to moderate quantities of water from joints and fractures. Although the aquifer is the least productive major aquifer in the segment, it is the only source of ground water in many parts of its extent and, thus, is considered to be a major aquifer.

GEOLOGY

The geologic and hydrogeologic nomenclature used in this report differs from State to State because of independent geologic interpretations and varied distribution and lithology of rock units. A fairly consistent set of nomenclature, however, can be derived from the most commonly used rock names. Therefore, the nomenclature used in this report is basically a synthesis of that of the U.S. Geological Survey, the Iowa Geological Survey Bureau, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Geological Survey, and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Individual sources for nomenclature are listed with each correlation chart prepared for this report.

Segment 9 lies on the periphery of the Canadian Shield, which is a vast province of extremely old (Precambrian) and predominantly crystalline rocks in central Canada, northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The surface formed by the Precambrian crystalline rocks is present throughout the segment as a floor or basement for the overlying Cambrian and younger sedimentary-rock sequence (fig. 9).

The crystalline-rock surface is an ancient erosional surface that yielded vast quantities of sediments through geologic time. The sediments derived from the weathering of the crystalline rocks were transported into multiple ancient seas that periodically encroached onto the crystalline-rock surface during the Precambrian and the Paleozoic. The sediments were deposited as extensive sequences of sandstone, shale, and limestone or dolomite that comprise the present-day sedimentary-rock aquifers and confining beds.

Because the crystalline-rock surface in Segment 9 slopes generally southward and eastward from its highest areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as shown in figure 9, the overlying sedimentary-rock sequence similarly dips and also thickens southward and eastward. Several structural features, which are shown in figure 9, controlled sedimentation in the segment. In northeastern Minnesota and north-central Wisconsin, the crystalline-rock surface rises to about 1,800 feet on the Transcontinental Arch and to about 1,500 feet above sea level on the Wisconsin Dome. These were the areas of erosion that produced the sediments. Areas of greatest sediment accumulation were the basins or low-lying areas on the crystalline-rock surface. The Hollandale Embayment of southeastern Minnesota, the Forest City Basin of southwestern Iowa, and the Michigan Basin in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 9) are the principal basin areas; for example, sediments are about 14,000 feet thick in the circular Michigan Basin, and rocks in the segment dip into the basin from eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Although not shown in figure 9, the Illinois Basin, which is centered in south-central Illinois, has affected sedimentation in Segment 9. Rocks in southern Wisconsin and southeastern Iowa dip toward the Illinois Basin. The Illinois Basin is discussed in greater detail in Chapter K (Segment 10) of this Atlas. Rocks in western Wisconsin and south-central Minnesota dip and thicken toward the center of the Hollandale Embayment. They continue to dip and thicken southwestward toward the Forest City Basin in southwestern Iowa.

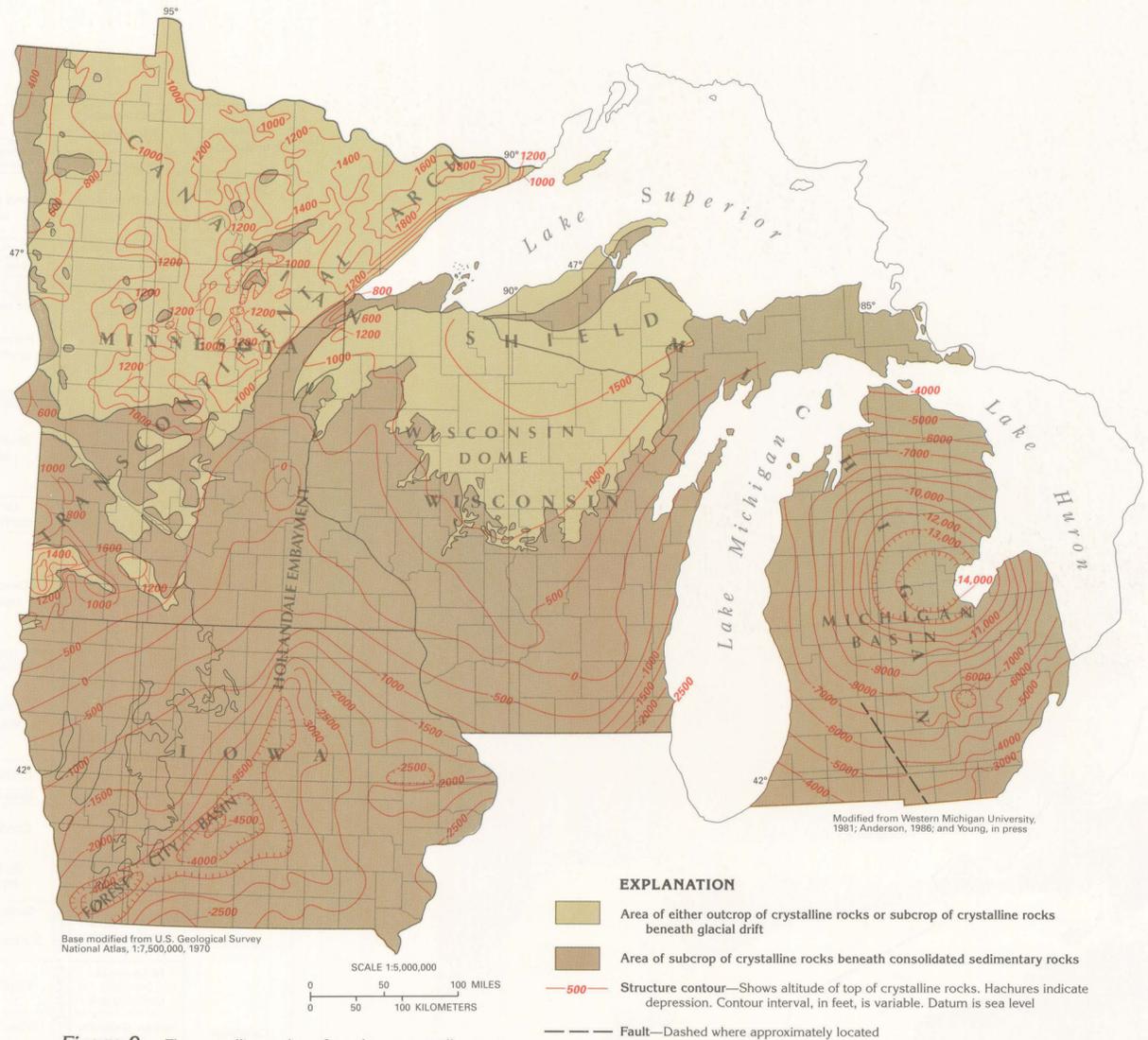


Figure 9. The crystalline-rock surface slopes generally southward into Iowa and southern Wisconsin and eastward into Michigan from the Transcontinental Arch in Minnesota and the Wisconsin Dome in Wisconsin.

Figure 10. The extent of the major bedrock units in Segment 9 is shown on this simplified geologic map. The extent of these units is virtually the same as the extent of the major bedrock aquifers and confining units.

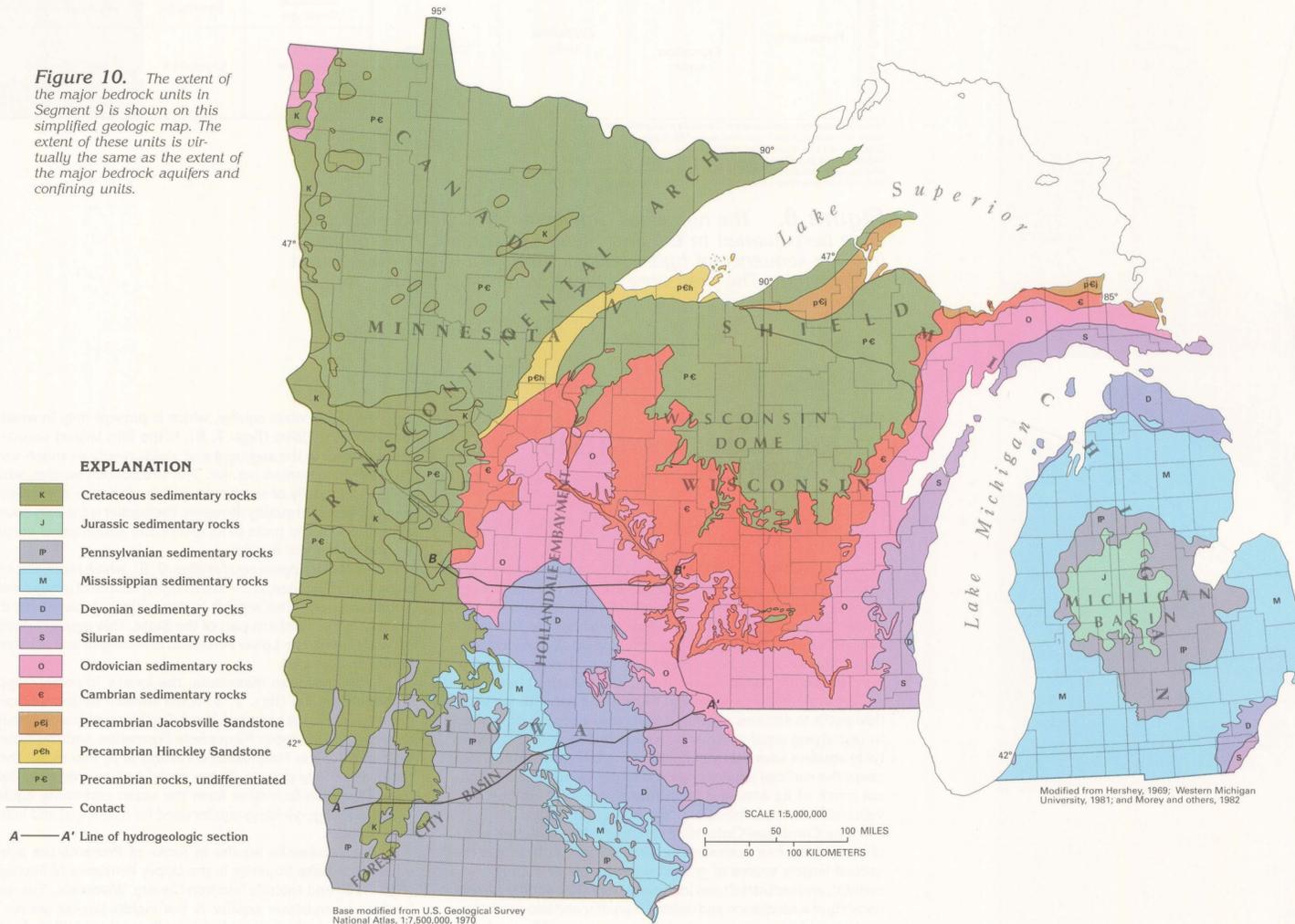
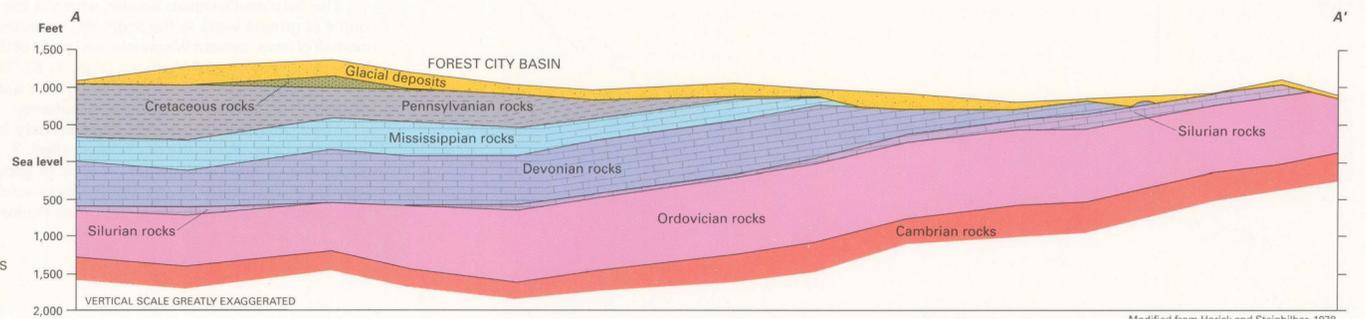


Figure 11. Successively older bedrock units subcrop under a cover of glacial deposits in a northeasterly direction across Iowa from the Forest City Basin on the southwest toward the Wisconsin Dome on the northeast. The line of the section is shown in figure 10.



Postdepositional erosion of the sedimentary-rock sequence in Segment 9 has beveled off the sediments, especially in the topographically higher areas. As a consequence, successively younger rocks form the bedrock surface down dip from the Transcontinental Arch and Wisconsin Dome toward the Forest City, the Michigan, and the Illinois Basins (figs. 9, 10). A comparison of the hydrogeologic map in figure 7 and the geologic map in figure 10 shows this effect of geology on the occurrence and the distribution of bedrock aquifers. Sectional views in Iowa (fig. 11), Minnesota (fig. 12), and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 13) emphasize the attitude of the rocks.

The eroded bedrock surface of crystalline and sedimentary rocks in Segment 9 was subjected to continental glaciation as recently as 10,000 years ago. Multiple glacial incursions into the area sculpted the bedrock surface, planed off loose and weathered rock, and deposited vast quantities of rock debris on the scoured bedrock surface. The unconsolidated glacial material was deposited as sorted and stratified water-laid material and as unsorted and unstratified ice-laid material.

The sorted and stratified water-laid deposits are the most permeable materials and, therefore, are the most productive aquifers. These materials were deposited by meltwater streams flowing from the glacier or were laid down in glacial lakes. Some of the meltwater streams flowed through deep bedrock valleys and deposited thick beds of sand and gravel (valley-train deposits) along the valleys. In many places, multiple meltwater streams deposited broad sheets of sand and gravel (outwash deposits) at the glacier front. In some places, stratified deposits that consist of thin layers of principally fine-grained material were laid down in glacial lakes. Stratified deposits also consist of mounds, hummocks, or terraces of sand and gravel (kame or kame-terrace deposits) deposited by meltwater along an ice margin or through an opening in the ice. Kame deposits tend to be extremely permeable and commonly have collapse features that are the result of the melting of remnants of glacial ice beneath the deposits. Some sorted and stratified deposits, especially those in deep bedrock valleys, were overridden by later glaciation and covered by till or glacial-lake deposits. Many of these buried deposits form productive aquifers; however, they are difficult to locate in the subsurface.

Till is unsorted and unstratified material that was deposited by the ice under and in front of the glacier. Till consists of unsorted clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders. Because of the heterogeneous nature of till, it tends to have minimal permeability and yields only small quantities of water to wells.

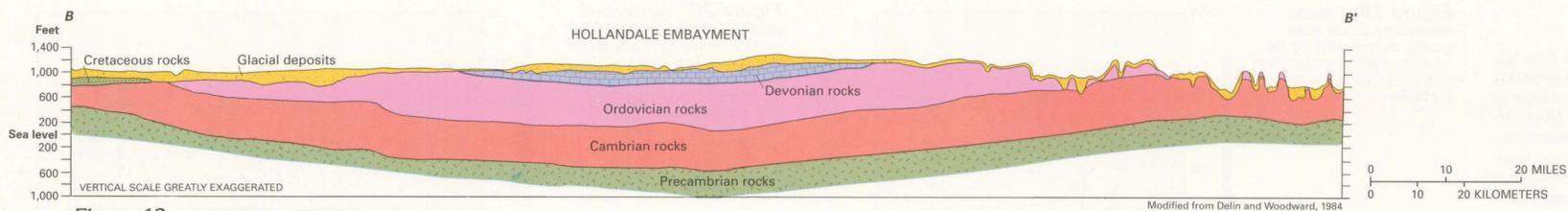


Figure 12. In Minnesota, rocks of Precambrian through Devonian age are gently warped downward in the Hollandale Embayment and are generally covered by glacial deposits. The line of the section is shown in figure 10.

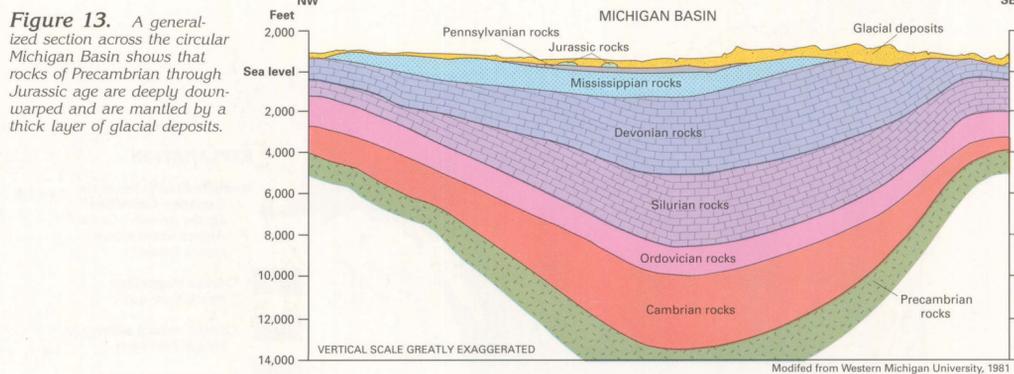


Figure 13. A generalized section across the circular Michigan Basin shows that rocks of Precambrian through Jurassic age are deeply downwarped and are mantled by a thick layer of glacial deposits.

VERTICAL SEQUENCE OF AQUIFERS

The vertical sequence of aquifer systems, aquifers, and confining units in Segment 9 varies from State to State; consequently, no one location has a total representation. They are discussed in descending order from geologically youngest to oldest. The vertical sequence of aquifer systems, aquifers, and confining units in each of the four States of Segment 9 is shown in the correlation chart (fig. 8), and the sequence of aquifers in consolidated rocks is shown in figures 14–18.

The surficial aquifer system consists of permeable, sorted and stratified sand and gravel deposits of glacial origin (aquifers) that commonly are interbedded with less permeable till (confining units). Because of its permeability and extent throughout most of the segment, the surficial aquifer system is hydraulically connected with nearly all bedrock aquifers. The bedrock aquifers are exposed at the land surface only in small areas; generally, they are covered by the surficial aquifer system, which provides an important component of storage from which water percolates downward to the underlying aquifers.

The Cretaceous aquifer is a sandstone unit in Cretaceous rocks and is present primarily in western and southwestern Minnesota and in northwestern Iowa (fig. 14). The aquifer is underlain by Precambrian crystalline rocks throughout much of its extent but overlaps onto rocks of Pennsylvanian through Cambrian age toward the south. The Cretaceous aquifer is hydraulically connected with many of the older bedrock aquifers where they subcrop under the Cretaceous rocks. In parts of northwestern Iowa, the Cretaceous aquifer is underlain by a confining unit of Pennsylvanian shale (fig. 8).

The Pennsylvanian aquifer is a sandstone unit in Pennsylvanian rocks, and is present only in the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (figs. 7 and 14). In places, the aquifer is overlain and confined by red shale of Jurassic age (red beds confining unit, fig. 8). The aquifer is underlain by a confining unit that consists mostly of limestone and shale of Pennsylvanian and Mississippian ages (Bayport–Michigan confining unit, fig. 8). The Pennsylvanian aquifer is most productive where it is overlain by the surficial aquifer system.

The Mississippian aquifer in Iowa consists of dolomite and forms the bedrock surface in the central and the southeastern parts of the State (figs. 7 and 15). In southwestern Iowa, the aquifer is overlain and underlain by shale confining units (fig. 8).

In the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the Mississippian aquifer consists of sandstone and forms the bedrock surface in a circular pattern that reflects the structural basin (fig. 15). In most places, the aquifer is overlain by the Bayport–Michigan confining unit (fig. 8), which consists mostly of limestone and shale of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian ages and which hydraulically separates the aquifer from the overlying Pennsylvanian aquifer. The Mississippian aquifer is underlain by the Coldwater Shale confining unit, which consists of shale of Devonian and Mississippian ages. The contact between the Mississippian aquifer and the Coldwater Shale confining unit generally marks the base of freshwater in bedrock aquifers underlying the Lower Peninsula.

The Silurian–Devonian aquifer consists mostly of dolomite and limestone in which fracture permeability has been enhanced by solution and extensive karst development. The aquifer is present in eastern Iowa, the eastern part of Wisconsin, the southern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (figs. 7 and 16). In Iowa, the aquifer forms the bedrock surface in the northeastern part of the State; in the southern and western parts, the aquifer is over-

lain by a confining unit of Devonian-age shale (fig. 8). The aquifer forms the bedrock surface throughout the area of eastern Wisconsin adjacent to Lake Michigan, in the southern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and in the northern and the southeastern parts of the Lower Peninsula. In these parts of Michigan, the aquifer only yields water adequate for domestic and small community supplies. In the rest of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the aquifer generally contains saltwater where it is overlain by the Coldwater Shale confining unit (fig. 8) and, therefore, is not developed.

The upper carbonate aquifer, which consists of Ordovician dolomitic shale and dolomite and overlying Devonian dolomite in southeastern Minnesota, is an extremely productive aquifer that extends a short distance into northern Iowa (figs. 7 and 17). The permeability of the aquifer has been substantially enhanced by extensive karst development. The aquifer is underlain by shaly dolomite of Ordovician age that forms the lower part of the Maquoketa confining unit (fig. 8). This confining unit also underlies the Silurian–Devonian aquifer.

The Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system consists of three aquifers separated by two leaky confining units and is capped by the Maquoketa confining unit (fig. 8). This aquifer system is present in parts of each of the four States (figs. 7 and 18). In Minnesota and Michigan, the aquifer system is called the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer (fig. 8). In Iowa, the upper part is called the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, and the lower part is called the Dresbach aquifer (fig. 8). In Wisconsin, the aquifer system is called the sandstone aquifer (fig. 8).

In parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system crops out at the land surface in the Driftless Area (fig. 7). Elsewhere, the aquifer system crops out at the land surface only in small areas; it is generally overlain by either the surficial aquifer system or younger bedrock aquifers.

The Maquoketa confining unit, which is the uppermost confining unit of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system (fig. 8), consists of shale and dolomite of Ordovician age. Only the lower part of the confining unit is present in southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa where the Maquoketa Shale and the underlying Galena Dolomite form the lower part of the upper carbonate aquifer (fig. 8). In Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Galena–Platteville aquifer (fig. 8), which consists of dolomite of Ordovician age, is areally extensive but generally yields water only in small quantities and is not considered to be a major aquifer.

The St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer consists of an upper sandstone unit of Ordovician age (St. Peter Sandstone), a middle dolomite unit of Ordovician age (Prairie du Chien Group), and a lower sandstone unit of Cambrian age (Jordan Formation) and forms a major aquifer in southeastern Minnesota, northern Iowa, southern and eastern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Although the three units generally function as one aquifer, geologic conditions cause the significance and the relation of the units to change areally. For example, in Minnesota, the upper sandstone unit is locally separated by the shaly basal St. Peter confining unit from the underlying dolomite. In Iowa, rocks that are stratigraphically equivalent to the upper unit of the Prairie du Chien Group form a confining unit that separates the St. Peter aquifer from the lower part of the Prairie du Chien Group and the underlying sandstone. In Michigan, the upper sandstone unit is thin (fig. 8) and not permeable. Where either all three units are in direct contact, as in Wisconsin, or the middle and the lower units are in direct contact, as in Iowa, the aquifer is extremely productive. The St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer is underlain and confined by the St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit throughout its area of occurrence.

Figure 14. The youngest consolidated rocks in southwestern Minnesota and western Iowa consist of sandstone and make up the Cretaceous aquifer. In the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, sandstones of Pennsylvanian age make up the Pennsylvanian aquifer.



Figure 15. The Mississippian aquifer underlies the Cretaceous aquifer in Iowa, and the Pennsylvanian aquifer in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, but is separated from the overlying aquifers by confining units in both States. The Mississippian aquifer, which is a sandstone in Michigan, consists of carbonate rocks in Iowa.

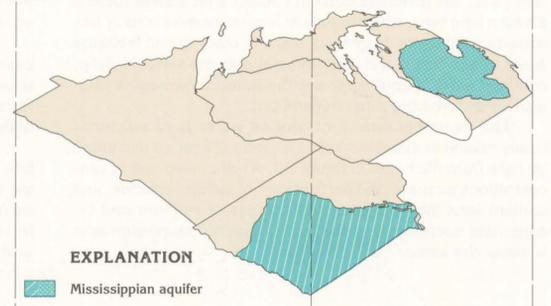


Figure 16. The Silurian–Devonian aquifer is present in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The aquifer consists of limestone and dolomite, yields water mostly from fractures, and underlies the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa and Michigan.



Figure 17. The upper carbonate aquifer is present in southeastern Minnesota and extends a short distance into Iowa. It consists of carbonate rocks of Devonian and Ordovician ages. Although of small areal extent, the aquifer produces large quantities of water.

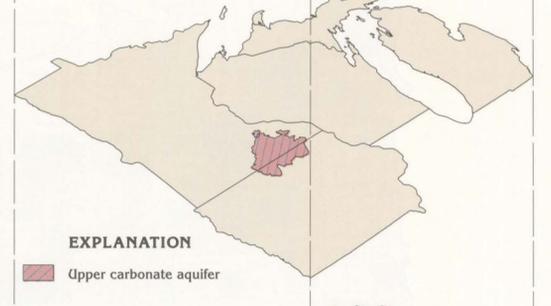
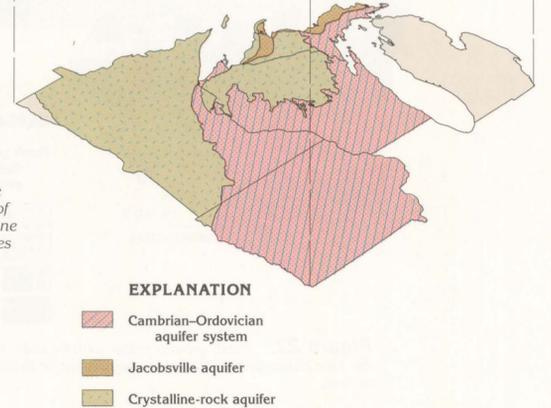


Figure 18. The Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system underlies the aquifers composed of younger rocks, shown in figures 14–17, in parts of each of the States of Segment 9. The Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system consists of three sandstone aquifers separated by partial confining units and it is capped by the Maquoketa confining unit. The Jacobsville aquifer is a sandstone aquifer that extends over a small part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is underlain by crystalline rocks of Precambrian age. The crystalline-rock aquifer underlies the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system throughout the segment and is exposed only in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Although areally extensive, the crystalline-rock aquifer generally yields only small quantities of water.



The St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit, which is present in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin (fig. 7), consists of a dolomite and a fine-grained sandstone of Cambrian age (fig. 8). In Michigan, some of the rocks that comprise the confining unit in the other three States are absent, and the remaining sandstone is sufficiently permeable to be included in either the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer [called the Prairie du Chien and the Trempealeau aquifers in Michigan (fig. 8)] or the Ironton–Galesville aquifer [called the Munising aquifer in Michigan (fig. 8)]. Where present, the St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit functions as a leaky confining unit.

The Ironton–Galesville aquifer (figs. 7, 8) consists of medium- to fine-grained sandstone of Cambrian age and is present in all four States; in Michigan, the aquifer is equivalent to the upper part of the Munising aquifer (fig. 8). In Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, the Ironton–Galesville aquifer is overlain by the St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit, and, except in Michigan, the aquifer is underlain by the Eau Claire confining unit.

The Eau Claire confining unit, which is present in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin (fig. 8), consists of a shaly sandstone of Cambrian age; in Michigan, the sandstone is sufficiently permeable to be considered part of the Munising aquifer. Where present, the confining unit functions as a leaky confining unit between the overlying Ironton–Galesville aquifer and the underlying Mount Simon aquifer.

The Mount Simon aquifer consists of a medium- to fine-grained sandstone of Cambrian age and is the lowermost aquifer of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system (fig. 8). The aquifer is present in all four States, although in Michigan, the aquifer is equivalent to the lower part of the Munising aquifer. In Minnesota, the aquifer includes the underlying Hinckley Sandstone of Precambrian age and the aquifer is called the Mount Simon–Hinckley aquifer. Also, in all four States, the aquifer overlies the crystalline-rock aquifer.

The Jacobsville aquifer consists of a sandstone of Precambrian age adjacent to Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (figs. 7 and 18). A small part of the aquifer extends inland as far as Iron County in Wisconsin. The aquifer is underlain by the crystalline-rock aquifer (fig. 8).

The crystalline-rock aquifer (fig. 7), which is the lowermost aquifer in the segment, consists of fractured crystalline rocks of Precambrian age. Although the crystalline rocks extend throughout the segment, they are not considered to be an aquifer except in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where they are not deeply buried (fig. 18). Although the crystalline rocks yield small to moderate quantities of water from fractures in the upper part of the rocks, few fractures are at depth; thus, the rocks form an impermeable boundary at the base of the aquifer sequence.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

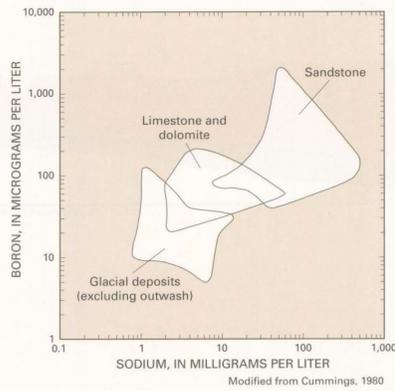
The natural chemical quality of water from the principal surficial and bedrock aquifers in the four-State area generally is suitable for most uses. The quality, however, is variable as indicated by the broad range of concentrations of a given dissolved constituent; for example, maximum and minimum dissolved-solids concentrations for 152 analyses of ground-water samples in Michigan differed by a factor of 100. Freshwater in each of the aquifers is predominantly a calcium magnesium bicarbonate type; that is, calcium and magnesium ions constitute more than 50 percent of the cations, and bicarbonate ions constitute more than 50 percent of the anions. In areas or aquifers or both where dissolved-solids concentrations are greater than normal, the proportions of sodium, sulfate, and chloride ions also are large. Aluminum, boron, iron, fluoride, titanium, radium-226, and hydrogen sulfide also are present in large concentrations in some parts of the four States.

Saltwater (water with dissolved-solids concentrations in excess of 1,000 milligrams per liter) underlies much of western and extreme northeastern Minnesota, nearly all of Iowa, small parts of eastern Wisconsin, and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Much of this saltwater is present at depths of less than 1,000 feet.

The chemical quality of natural ground water is primarily affected by the mineralogy of aquifer materials and the length of time that the water is in contact with these materials; for example, a plot of the relation of boron and sodium to rock types in Michigan (fig. 19) shows the differences that occur from contact of the water with various aquifer materials. Water deep within an aquifer, as well as that near the end of a long flow path, has generally been in contact with aquifer materials for a long time, which results in large concentrations of dissolved constituents. In general, water in outcrop and recharge areas of aquifers is the least mineralized, but water in deep, confined parts of aquifers where the water movement is sluggish tends to be the most mineralized.

The chemical nature of ground water is characteristically related to dissolved-solids concentrations, as illustrated by data from Michigan in figure 20. As dissolved-solids concentrations increase, the percentages of sulfate, chloride, and sodium ions increase, the percentages of calcium and bicarbonate decrease, and the percentage of magnesium ions is about the same.

Figure 19. Aquifer mineralogy affects water quality as indicated by the relation of boron and sodium to several rock types in Michigan.



Because ion concentrations increase along flow paths, a progressive change that occurs in the water chemistry can be mapped as hydrochemical facies, or classification of waters based on their dominant cations and anions. A hydrochemical-facies map of water in the combined St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan and Mount Simon aquifers of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system for the western part of Segment 9 is shown in figure 21. In unconfined recharge areas of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system in southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and most of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, calcium magnesium bicarbonate water prevails due to the short flow paths and the carbonate-rich minerals in the aquifer system.

In southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa, a calcium sodium sulfate bicarbonate water is present in the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system. It probably has its source as recharge from the overlying Cretaceous aquifer where the oxidation of pyrite might be the source of the sulfate.

The water chemistry evolves from a calcium sodium sulfate bicarbonate water (fig. 21) farther downgradient, possibly due to ion exchange of sodium for calcium by clay minerals in the aquifer system. In east-central and southern Iowa, the water further evolves to a sodium-mixed anion water, again possibly due to a continued ion exchange (sodium for calcium).

Calcium sodium sulfate chloride water in east-central Wisconsin (fig. 21) might be the result of updrift migration of brines derived from evaporite deposits in the Michigan Basin during Pleistocene glaciation. The updrift migration might have resulted from the depressing of the aquifer system by glacial ice. Farther downgradient toward Michigan, the water evolves to a sodium sulfate chloride water, which possibly is due to ion exchange (sodium for calcium).

Figure 20. As dissolved-solids concentrations in ground water increase, the percentages of sulfate (SO₄), chloride (Cl), and sodium (Na) ions increase; the percentages of calcium (Ca) and bicarbonate (HCO₃) ions decrease; and the percentage of magnesium (Mg) ions is about the same.

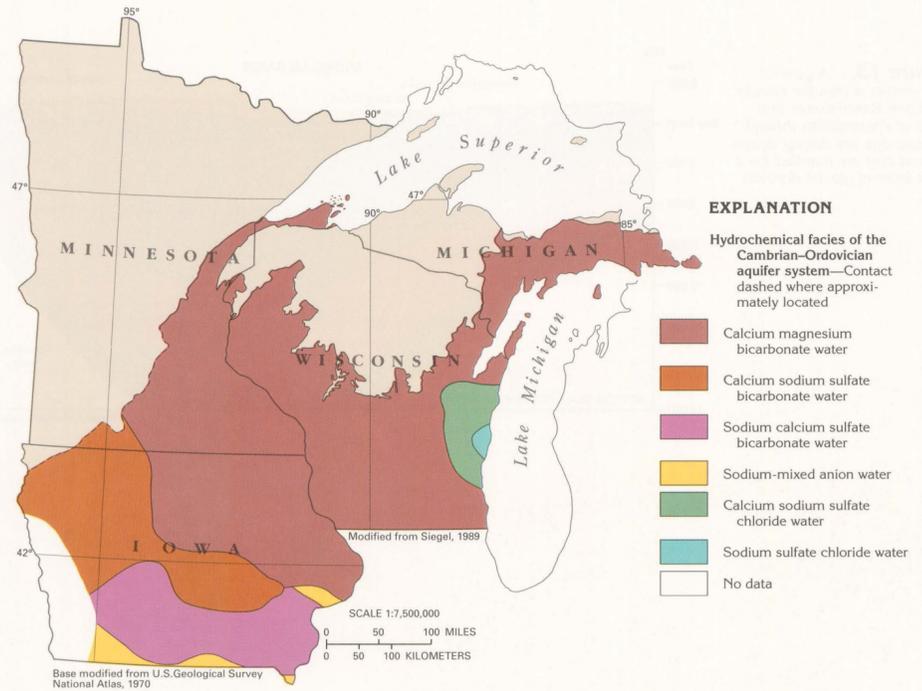
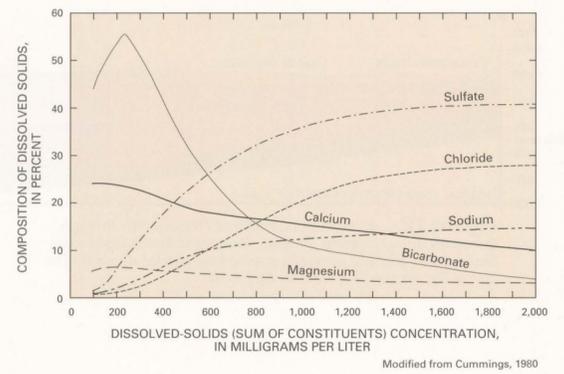


Figure 21. Because ion concentrations in ground water increase along flow paths, the chemical evolution of the water results in hydrochemical facies.

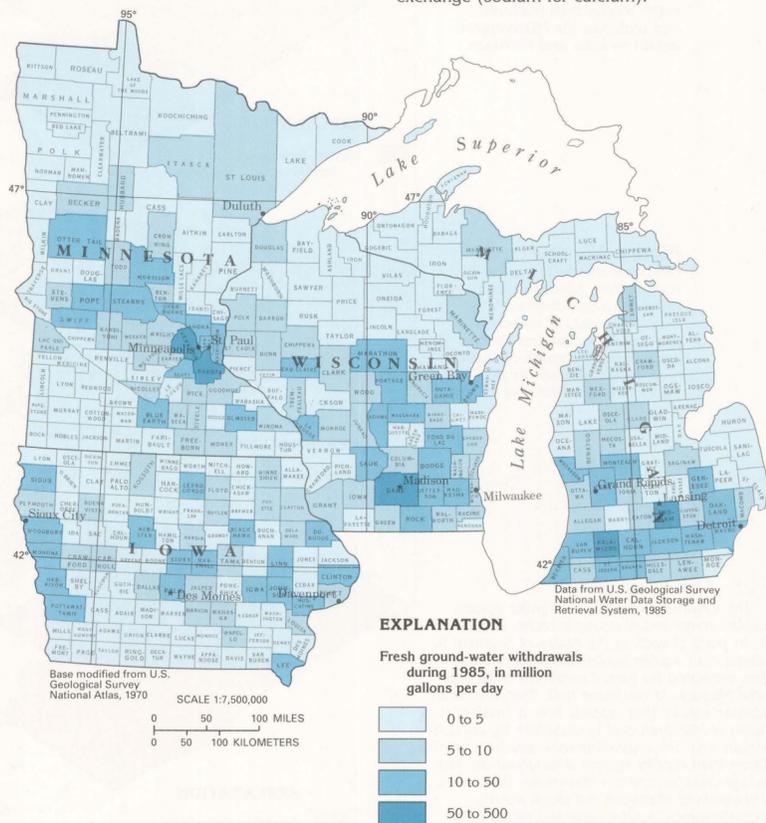


Figure 22. Fresh ground-water withdrawals, by county, in the four States are greatest near population or industrial centers or both.

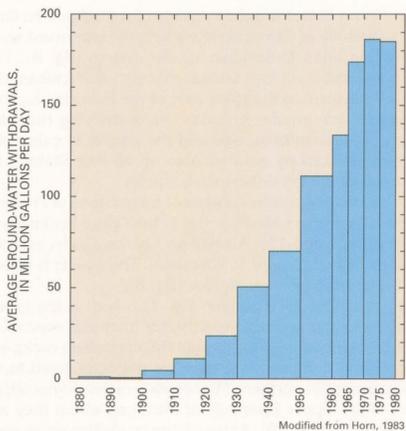


Figure 23. Ground-water withdrawals from the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system in the seven-county Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area have increased from almost no use during 1880 to 1900 to nearly 190 million gallons per day during 1970–80.

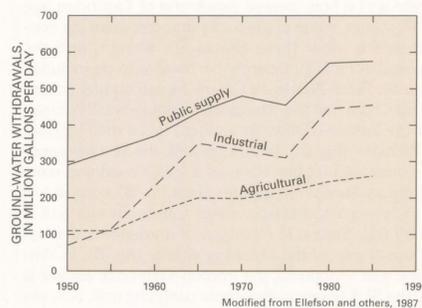


Figure 24. Three principal categories of water use show a long-term trend of increasing ground-water withdrawals in Wisconsin.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Ground water is a reliable source of water for nearly 13 million people (table 1), or nearly 61 percent of the population of Segment 9. Water systems are approximately evenly divided between public water-supply systems and private (domestic) water-supply systems. Ground water is the source for nearly all public water-supply systems in small cities (less than 10,000 population) and supplies nearly 100 percent of the unincorporated rural areas.

Total fresh ground-water withdrawals, by county, during 1985 in the four States of Segment 9 are illustrated in figure 22. Large withdrawals in counties of each State are related to large population centers or concentrations of industry or both. Many large cities located adjacent to major rivers or the Great Lakes (for example, Milwaukee, Wis.) withdraw surface water for public supply; their effect is not indicated on the map.

A trend of increasing withdrawal of ground water for all use categories in the four-State area is indicated by data from the

seven-county Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area of Minnesota (fig. 23) and from Wisconsin (fig. 24). The trend toward increasing withdrawals has been confirmed by a 1987 compilation of water-use data throughout the country by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The freshwater withdrawn from principal aquifers in the four-State area during 1985 is shown in figure 25. The diameters of the circles are proportional to the rate of freshwater withdrawal from each aquifer. The surficial aquifer system, which is present throughout most of the four-State area, supplied water at a rate of about 2.5 times as much as the next largest producing aquifer and nearly 1.5 times as much as all other aquifers combined during 1985. The Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system is the next largest producer and supplied water at a rate of about 2.5 times the third largest producer, the Silurian–Devonian aquifer. The lesser producing Cretaceous, Pennsylvanian, Mississippian, upper carbonate, and combined Jacobsville and crystalline-rock aquifers are limited in areal extent or do not underlie population or industrial centers or both with large water demands. Total withdrawal from all aquifers during 1985 was 2,545 million gallons per day.

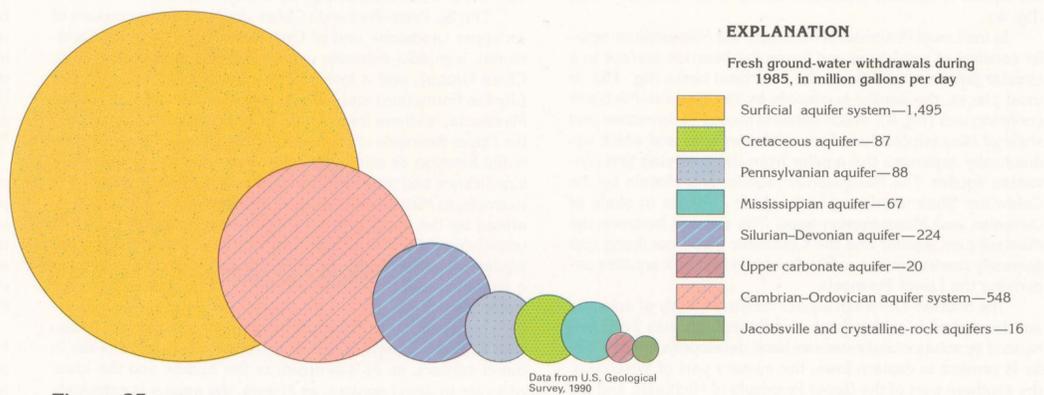


Figure 25. The surficial aquifer system supplied water to the four-State area at a rate about 2.5 times that of the next largest producing aquifer and about 1.5 times as much as all other aquifers combined during 1985.

Figure 26. The surficial aquifer system is an important source of water throughout the four-State area.

INTRODUCTION

The surficial aquifer system is the uppermost and the most widespread aquifer system in the four-State area (figure 26). This aquifer system consists primarily of material deposited during multiple advances of continental glaciers from the north during the Pleistocene and, possibly, the Pliocene Epochs. The massive ice sheets planed off and incorporated soil and rock fragments as large as boulders during advances and redistributed these materials on the eroded land surface as water- or ice-laid deposits or both during retreats. Glaciofluvial or meltwater deposits, such as outwash, lake sand, kames, and eskers, are sorted and generally stratified deposits of sand and gravel that are exposed at the land surface and that readily receive, store, transmit, and discharge water. They are a primary source of water for wells throughout the four-State area and supply much of the base flow (fair-weather flow) of streams. Ground and terminal moraines, which are the dominant type of deposit laid down directly by ice, normally are unsorted, unstratified deposits of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders called glacial till.



Figure 27. Sorted and stratified deposits of sand and gravel are productive aquifers.

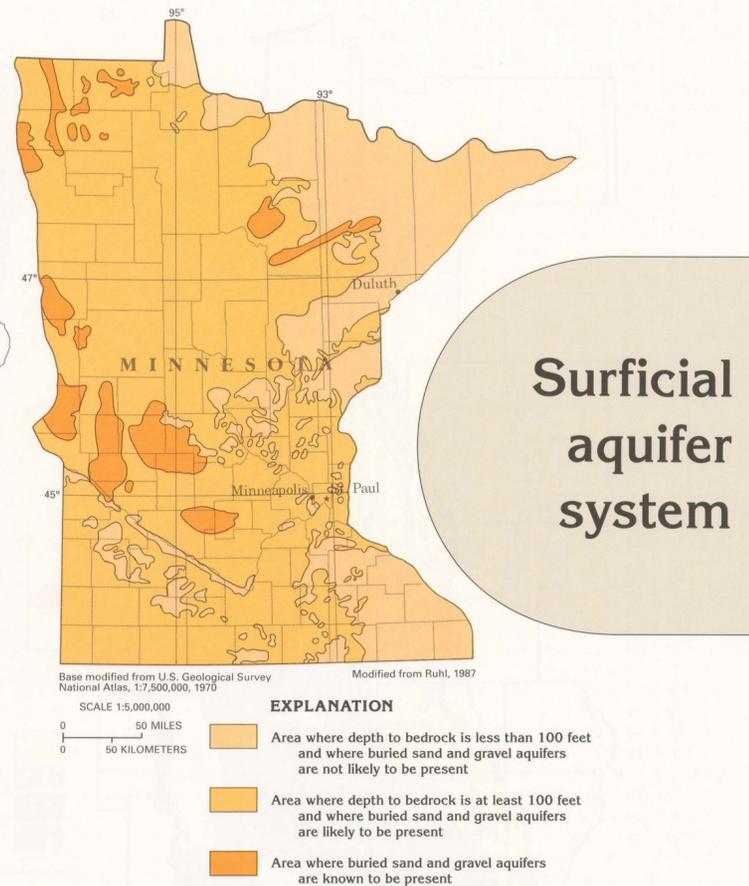
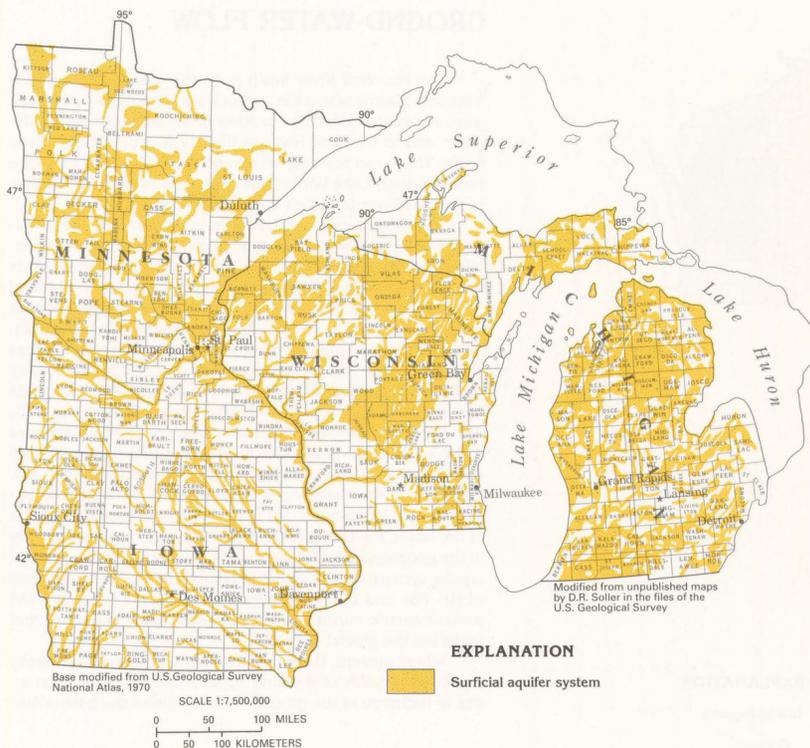


Figure 28. Buried sand and gravel aquifers are difficult to locate but are most likely to be present in areas of thick glacial deposits.

GEOLOGY AND WATER-YIELDING CHARACTERISTICS

Glacial deposits have a varied lithology and complex stratigraphy. The multiple glaciations originated from different directions and derived different materials from the predominant rock types in their paths. In Minnesota, for example, ice lobes that advanced from the northwest deposited gray calcareous till that contains fragments of limestone and shale, whereas ice lobes that advanced from the northeast deposited reddish, sandy, noncalcareous till. In areas of the State where these deposits overlap, there is a variable mixture of both types of till.

Iowa is covered largely by glacial deposits of older ice advances that are rich in clay and, thus, have minimal permeability. Reworked coarse-grained alluvial material along present stream valleys and buried former stream valleys, which were eroded into the bedrock surface, forms the only important surficial aquifers in the State.

Ice advances across Wisconsin and Michigan encountered vast areas of sandstone and crystalline bedrock in the northern parts of these States. Fragments of these rocks were transported and deposited farther to the south as extremely permeable, sandy material that forms productive aquifers. Where dolomitic rocks were encountered by the ice, the derived material is calcareous and rich in clay.

Buried deposits of permeable sand and gravel are present throughout the glaciated area where multiple ice advances occurred. Outwash or alluvium or both and other permeable deposits from earlier glaciation were covered by less-permeable deposits from succeeding advances or possibly from a readvance of the same glacier. These buried permeable deposits are generally confined aquifers that yield small to large quantities of water depending on their size. The buried deposits are difficult to locate as they normally have no surface expression. The known buried permeable deposits in Minnesota are shown in figure 28, and most commonly are present in areas of thick glacial deposits. In Iowa, buried permeable deposits typically are present along ancient erosion channels in the bedrock surface, as indicated in the example shown for central Iowa in figure 29.

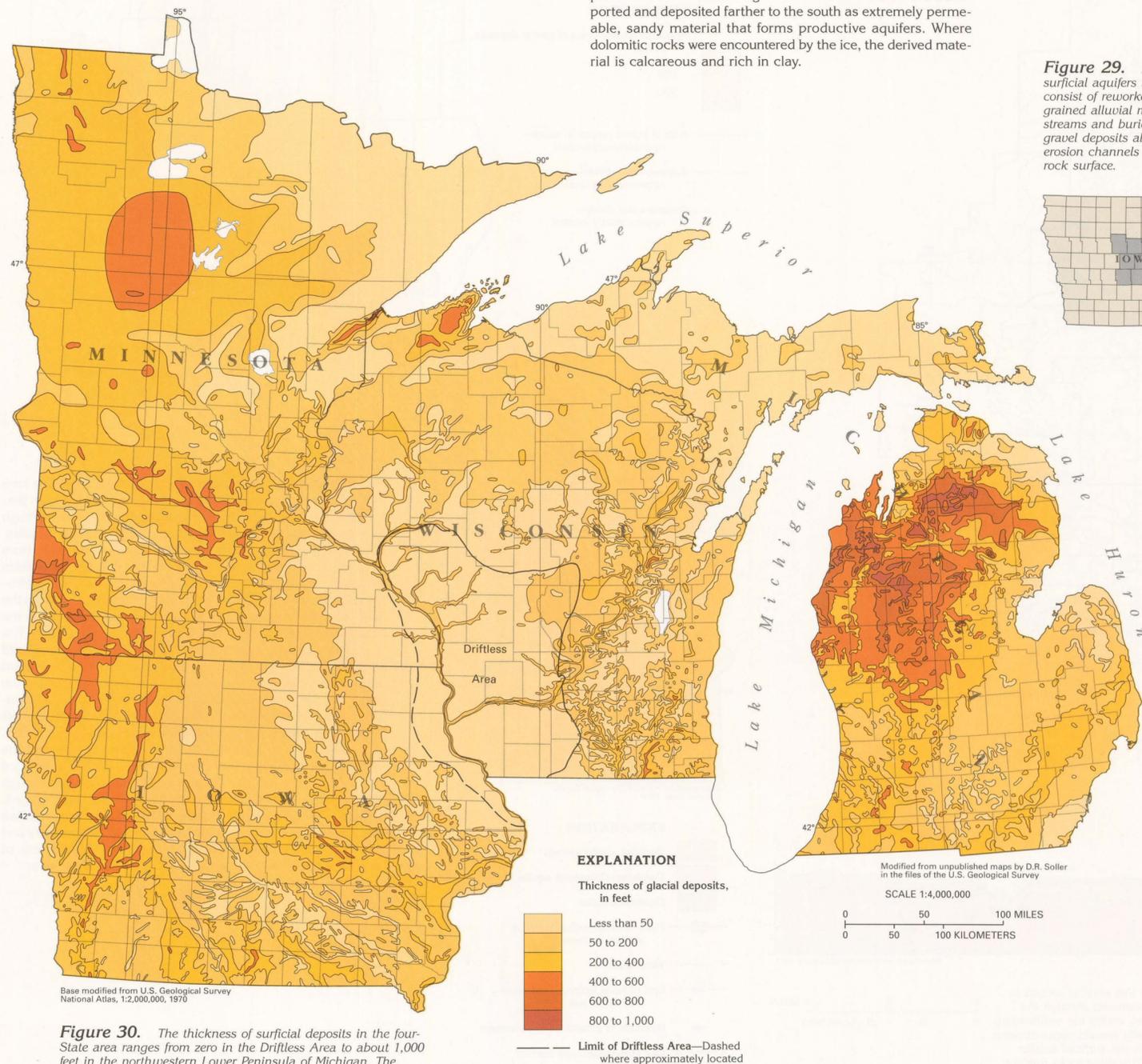
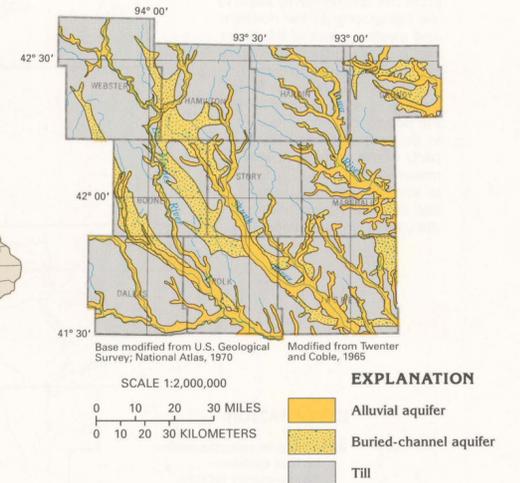


Figure 30. The thickness of surficial deposits in the four-State area ranges from zero in the Driftless Area to about 1,000 feet in the northwestern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The thickness of most deposits ranges from 50 to 400 feet.

Figure 29. Important surficial aquifers in Iowa consist of reworked coarse-grained alluvial material along streams and buried sand and gravel deposits along ancient erosion channels in the bedrock surface.



Glacial deposits in the four-State area generally range from 50 to 400 feet in thickness, but in some areas, such as the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, they attain thicknesses of as much as 1,000 feet (fig. 30). In large areas surrounding Lakes Superior and Michigan and in northeastern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, glacial deposits are generally less than 50 feet thick. This might be related to the paucity of rock material available for transport by the ice from the hard crystalline rocks of that area. A large area in northeastern Iowa, southwestern Wisconsin, and southeastern Minnesota is characterized by the almost complete lack of surficial deposits (fig. 30). This is the Driftless Area, which was not glaciated by any of the ice advances. Most of the Driftless Area has no glacial deposits except for clay, silt, and sand deposited in ephemeral glacial lakes and alluvial material that was transported into the major stream valleys by glacial meltwater and deposited.

Potential yields of wells completed in permeable glacial deposits in the four-State area might be about 500 gallons per minute where the deposits are thickest, such as in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and along major alluvial stream valleys, such as the Mississippi and the Wisconsin Rivers. Outwash deposits might yield about 500 gallons per minute to wells in Wisconsin and Michigan and lesser quantities in Minnesota. In broad areas of each State, wells completed in till might yield from 1 to 10 gallons per minute; even though it is only slightly permeable, the till generally yields small quantities of water to domestic wells.

Ground-water movement in glacial deposits in Segment 9 is a function of topography (gradient); type, permeability, and thickness of deposits; and the volume of recharge resulting from precipitation. Because these conditions are variable and extremely complex throughout Segment 9, an example basin is presented, and hydrogeology, ground-water movement, surface-water/ground-water relations, yield, and water quality are discussed to characterize the surficial aquifer system in the segment. The Fox-Wolf River basin in northeastern Wisconsin was chosen as a typical basin.

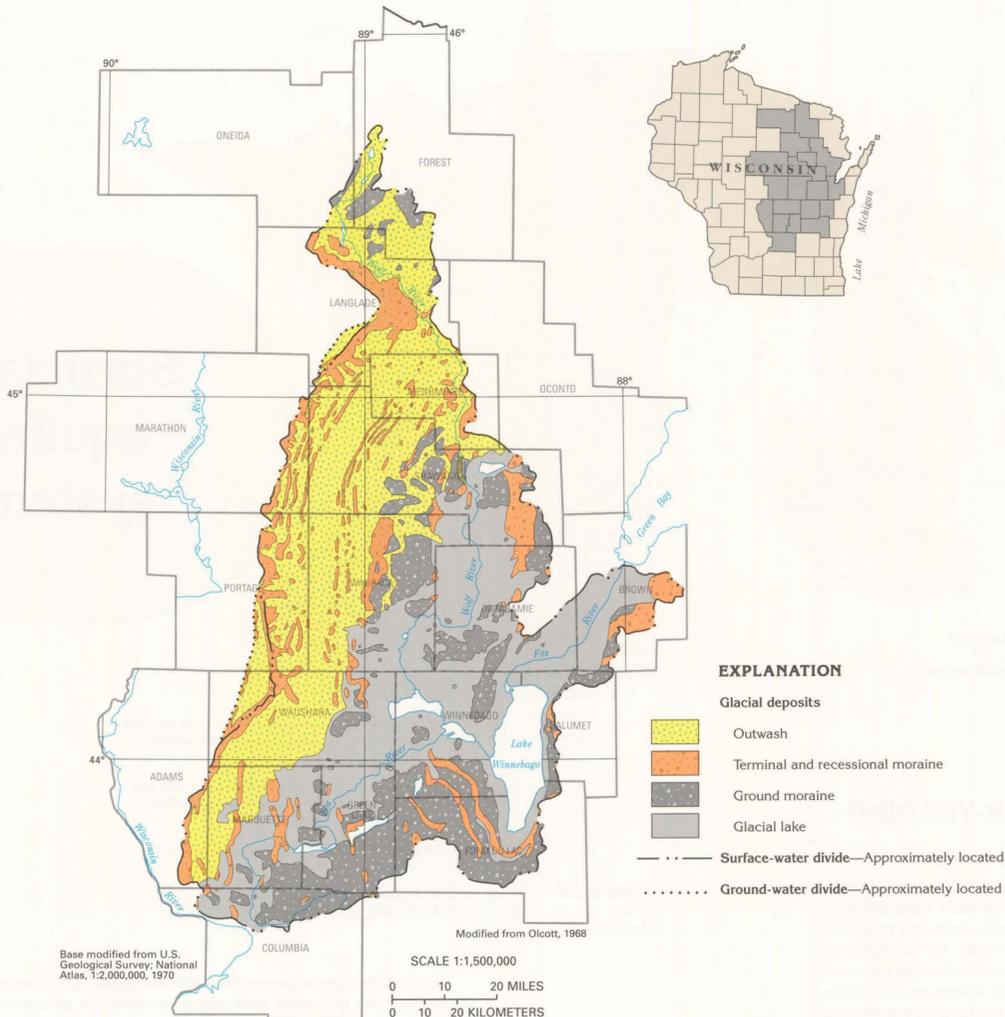


Figure 31. Thick, permeable glacial-outwash deposits cover most of the northern and western parts of the Fox-Wolf River basin. Morainal and glacial-lake deposits cover the remainder of the basin.

GROUND-WATER FLOW

The Fox-Wolf River basin is on the eastern flank of the Wisconsin Dome where the bedrock surface slopes southeastward and eastward to the Fox River in the southern part of the basin and to the Wolf River in the north-central part of the basin. These two principal rivers and their tributaries drain the basin through Lake Winnebago and the downstream reaches of the Fox River to Green Bay (Lake Michigan).

The western edge of the basin is bordered by the terminal moraine of Wisconsin glaciation (fig. 31), which is paralleled to the east by numerous recessional moraines. This northwestern part of the basin is largely covered by stratified outwash deposits of permeable sand and gravel (fig. 31) that range in thickness from a few to more than 200 feet (fig. 32). The mainstem of the Fox River and the downstream reaches of the Wolf River flow along the course of a deep bedrock valley that has been filled with fine-grained glacial-lake sediments that range in thickness from 100 to about 200 feet (fig. 32). The glacial-lake sediments are bordered on the south and east by ground-moraine deposits of unsorted and unstratified till (fig. 31) that are generally less than 100 feet thick (fig. 32).

A map of the water-level surface in the Fox-Wolf River basin is shown in figure 33. In the northern and the western parts of the basin, the contours represent the water table principally in the unconfined outwash deposits that comprise the surficial aquifer system, which overlies crystalline rocks. South and east of the Fox and the Wolf Rivers, the contours represent the potentiometric surface in a confined sandstone aquifer that underlies the glacial deposits.

Where present, the water table is shallow and is generally a subdued replica of the land surface. Water moves from areas of recharge at the ground-water divide of the basin down

the hydraulic gradient to discharge into local streams, where it comprises a large percentage of the base flow. These flow paths are generally less than 4 miles long and are commonly less than 1 mile long.

The gradient of the streams and the water table in the northern and western parts of the basin reflect the relatively steep slope of the topography in these areas. Streams flow southeastward directly downslope (fig. 33). The water throughout the outwash deposits also generally flows downslope perpendicular to the contours on the water table as shown by the arrows in figure 33.

The surface-water divide on the western side of the basin delineates the surface-water basin and follows the Wisconsin terminal moraine (figs. 31-33). Because of the sandy character of the morainal deposits, parts of the moraine are so permeable that the water table is not affected by the topography. Consequently, the ground-water basin is delineated by a ground-water divide farther to the west (figs. 31-33).

An area of almost flat topography along the mainstem of the Fox and Wolf Rivers is an area of ground-water discharge. Ground water moves to the streams and to extensive wetlands in this area of low relief. The low topographic relief is reflected in the slight gradient of the water table (fig. 33).

Although the potentiometric surface south and east of the Fox and the Wolf Rivers represents hydraulic heads in the underlying sandstone aquifer, hydraulic heads in the overlying glacial deposits are similar; therefore, the configuration of potentiometric-surface contours generally is similar to that of the water-table contours in the glacial deposits. In the surficial and the sandstone aquifers, water movement is toward the two principal rivers, Lake Winnebago, and the five cones of depression shown in figure 33, which are caused by withdrawals of ground water. Locally, water in the surficial aquifer also moves downward to recharge the sandstone aquifer.

Figure 32. Glacial deposits range from less than 100 to more than 200 feet thick and are thickest in preglacial valleys that trend northeasterly through the central and southern parts of the Fox-Wolf River basin. Glacial deposits in the northern and western parts of the basin are as much as 200 feet thick.

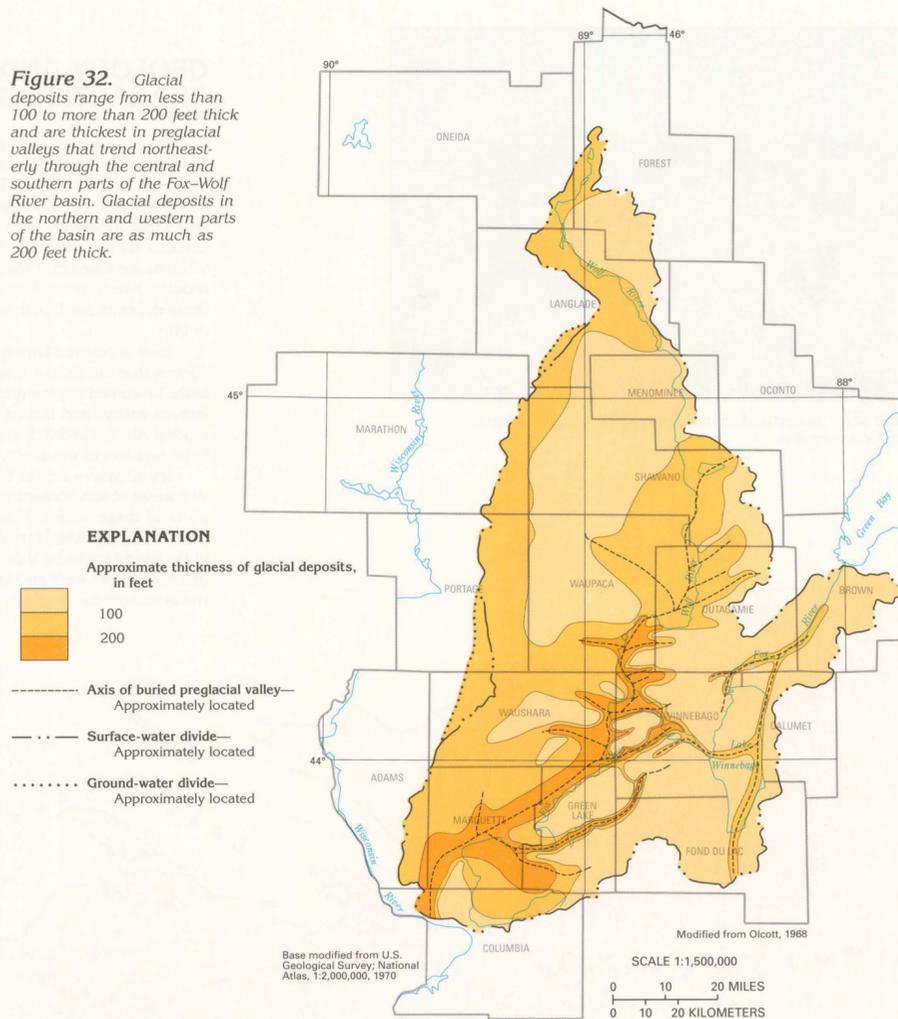
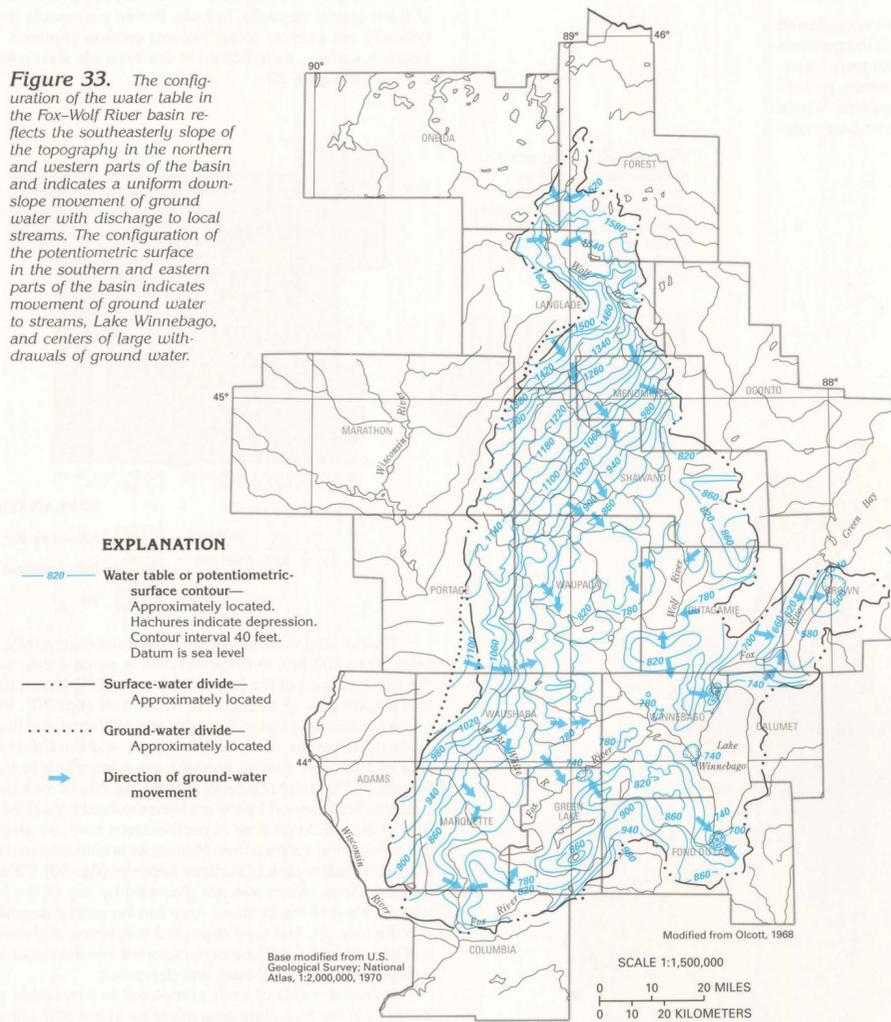


Figure 33. The configuration of the water table in the Fox-Wolf River basin reflects the southeasterly slope of the topography in the northern and western parts of the basin and indicates a uniform downslope movement of ground water with discharge to local streams. The configuration of the potentiometric surface in the southern and eastern parts of the basin indicates movement of ground water to streams, Lake Winnebago, and centers of large withdrawals of ground water.



The surficial aquifer system throughout the four-State area not only functions as a storage reservoir for recharge from precipitation, but, in most places, water moves downward through the aquifer system to recharge underlying bedrock aquifers. Conversely, in some places, ground water moves upward from underlying bedrock aquifers into the surficial aquifer system and then moves to streams where it is discharged. The hydrogeologic section in figure 34 illustrates water movement in the surficial aquifer system and bedrock aquifers adjacent to the Minnesota River southwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. The equipotential lines show that the hydraulic gradient is upward in the immediate vicinity of the Minnesota River but downward elsewhere. Water from the land surface moves downward to the water table in the surficial aquifer. From there, it moves downward into bedrock aquifers on each side of the river. The water then moves horizontally toward the river in response to the hydraulic gradient in both the surficial aquifer system and the bedrock aquifers. Near the river, the water follows an upward gradient and moves from the bedrock aquifers upward through the surficial aquifer system into the river where it is discharged. Ground-water circulation does not extend into Precambrian crystalline rocks that generally have minimal permeability and function as a barrier to water movement. This pattern of ground-water circulation is typical in the four-State area.

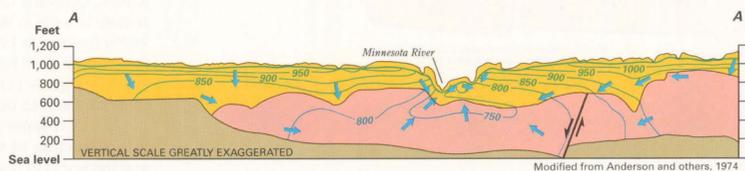
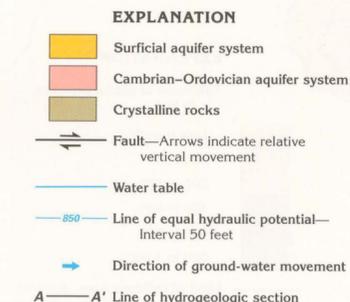


Figure 34. Equipotential lines in this vertical section in Minnesota show how water moves downward through the surficial aquifer system in upland areas, enters the sedimentary bedrock aquifers, and moves horizontally toward major streams. The water then moves upward through the surficial aquifer system to be discharged to streams. Crystalline rocks function as a barrier to downward water movement.



GROUND-WATER AND SURFACE-WATER INTERACTION

The surficial aquifer system is hydraulically connected to streams because of its shallow depth, ease of recharge by precipitation, and short ground-water flow systems. The degree of this connection, however, is affected by the permeability of the deposits comprising the aquifer. The most permeable deposits have the greatest connection to streams, but the connection decreases with decreasing permeability; for example, in figure 35, runoff, expressed in cubic feet per second per square mile of drainage basin, is plotted for numerous small drainage basins in the Fox-Wolf River basin during a low-flow period. The greatest runoff, which is more than 0.3 cubic foot per second per square mile of basin, generally is in the northern and the western parts of the basin, which are underlain by permeable, thick outwash (figs. 31, 32). The least runoff, which is less than 0.12 cubic foot per second per square mile of basin, generally is in the east and south-central parts of the basin, which are underlain by poorly permeable morainal and glacial-lake deposits (fig. 31).

Another indication of the relation of ground water to surface water is shown by a comparison of the chemical composition of samples of ground water collected from a well near the

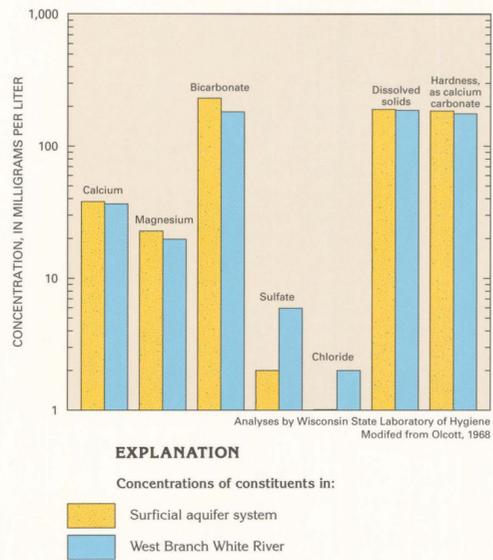


Figure 36. The chemical composition of water from a well near the West Branch White River is similar to that of water from the river during low flow, which indicates that flow in the river is largely ground-water discharge.

West Branch White River in western Waushara County with samples collected from the river during low flow (fig. 36). The similar concentrations of each constituent indicate that the low flow of the stream is composed almost entirely of ground-water discharge.

Thus, in Segment 9, ground-water discharge from the surficial aquifer system sustains the low flow of streams, and the greatest low flows occur in areas underlain by permeable, thick, glacial deposits. Low flows are less in areas underlain by less permeable glacial deposits.

An important aspect of ground-water movement in the surficial aquifer system is the relation of ground water to lakes. About 25,000 lakes that formed during glaciation are present just in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The lakes generally are an extension of the water table in the surrounding surficial aquifer system. Thus, water from the surficial aquifer system moves into the lake on the upgradient side and moves back into the aquifer system as recharge from the lake on the downgradient side; for example, Browns Lake in southeastern Wisconsin (fig. 37) receives ground-water discharge from the surficial aquifer system along the eastern shore but loses water to the aquifer system along the southern and the western shores as the ground water moves westward to be discharged to the Fox River. This relation is typical of ground-water movement around lakes in the glaciated part of Segment 9.

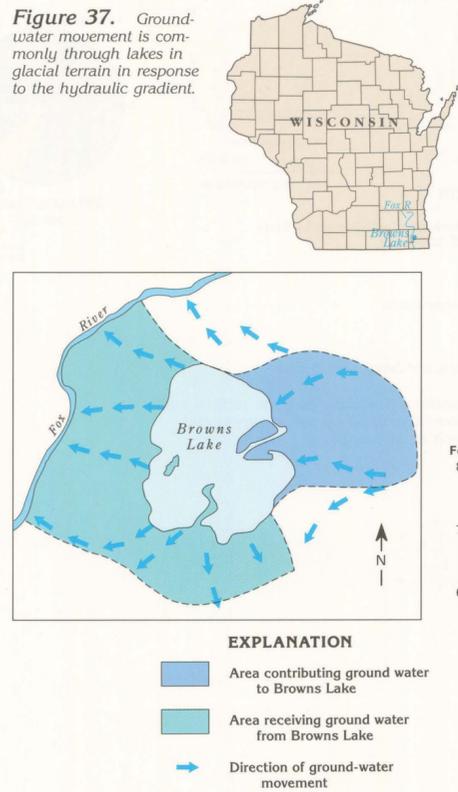
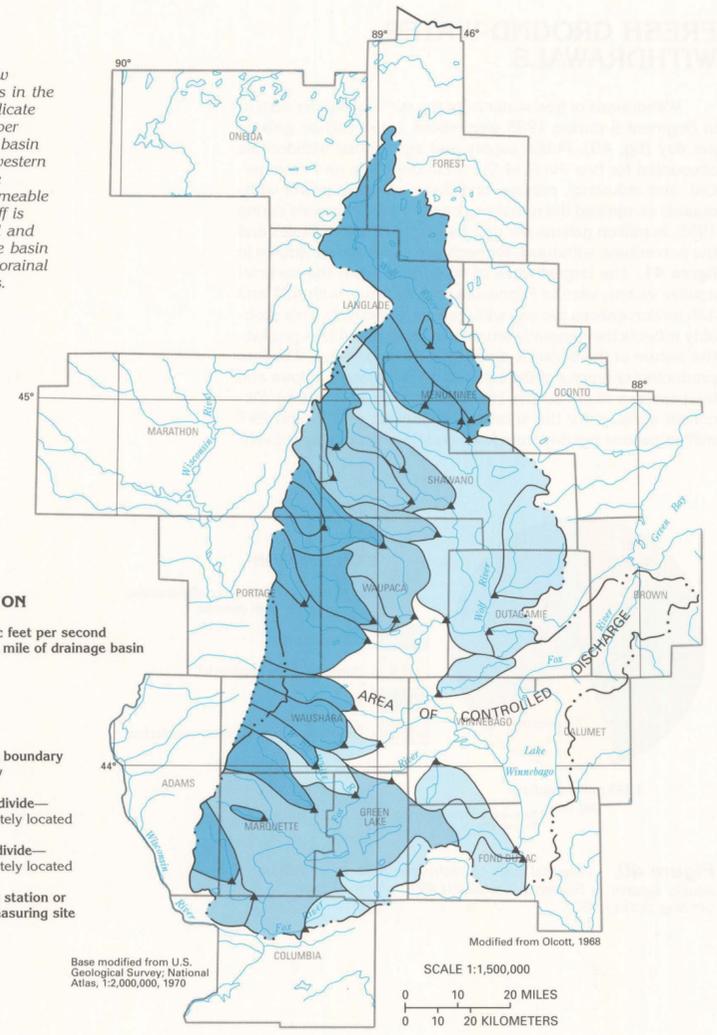


Figure 37. Ground-water movement is commonly through lakes in glacial terrain in response to the hydraulic gradient.

Figure 35. Low-flow measurements of streams in the Fox-Wolf River basin indicate that the greatest runoff per square mile of drainage basin is in the northern and western parts of the basin where streams drain thick, permeable outwash deposits. Runoff is least in the north-central and south-central parts of the basin that are underlain by morainal and glacial-lake deposits.

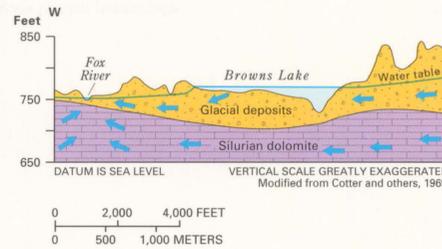


EXPLANATION

Runoff, in cubic feet per second per square mile of drainage basin

- 0.12
- 0.3
- Drainage basin boundary of tributary
- - - Surface-water divide—Approximately located
- Ground-water divide—Approximately located
- ▲ Stream-gaging station or stream-measuring site

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey, National Atlas, 1:2,000,000, 1970
Modified from Olcott, 1968
SCALE 1:1,500,000
0 10 20 MILES
0 10 20 KILOMETERS



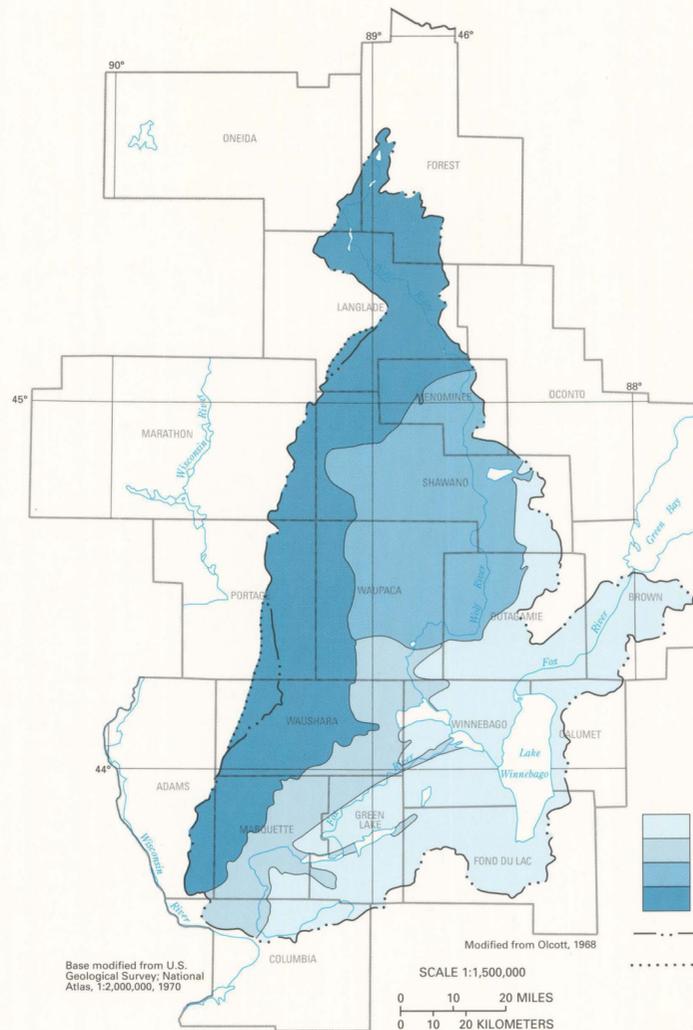
EXPLANATION

- Area contributing ground water to Browns Lake
- Area receiving ground water from Browns Lake
- Direction of ground-water movement

RELATION OF POTENTIAL WELL YIELDS AND WATER QUALITY TO TYPE OF GLACIAL DEPOSITS

Potential yields of wells completed in the surficial aquifer system typically are largest in the most permeable glacial deposits and smallest in the least permeable glacial deposits. Potential well yields of 500 to 1,000 gallons per minute can be expected from outwash deposits in the northern and the western parts of the Fox-Wolf River basin, as shown in figure 38. Potential well yields from sand in glacial-lake deposits in the central part of the basin are variable and range from 10 to 500 gallons per minute. Potential well yields of only 5 to 10 gallons per minute can be expected from the morainal and glacial-lake deposits in the southern and eastern parts of the basin where these deposits contain little sand and have low permeability.

The chemical quality of water in the surficial aquifer system also is affected by the permeability of the glacial deposits. The smallest concentrations of dissolved solids (100–200 milligrams per liter) in ground water in the Fox-Wolf River basin generally are in areas underlain by outwash and sandy glacial-lake deposits in the northern and the southwestern parts of the basin (fig. 39). The largest concentrations (400–600 milligrams per liter) are in two small areas underlain by clayey morainal and glacial-lake deposits in the south-central part of the basin.



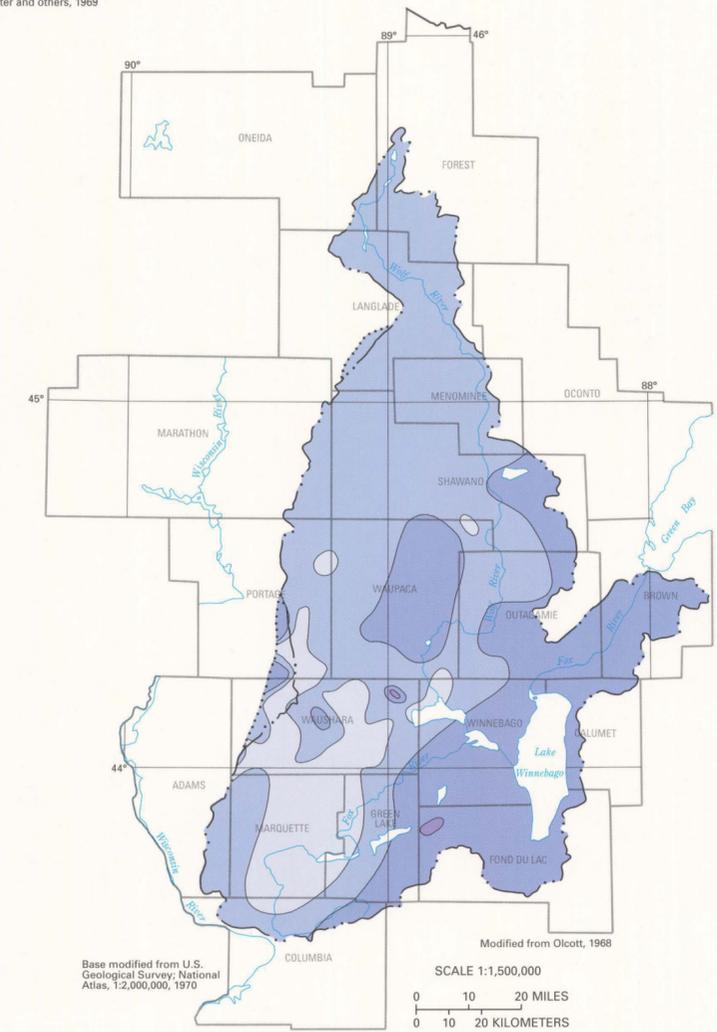
EXPLANATION

Potential yield of water to wells completed in surficial aquifer system, in gallons per minute

- 5 to 10
- 10 to 100
- 100 to 500
- 500 to 1,000
- - - Surface-water divide—Approximately located
- Ground-water divide—Approximately located

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey, National Atlas, 1:2,000,000, 1970
Modified from Olcott, 1968
SCALE 1:1,500,000
0 10 20 MILES
0 10 20 KILOMETERS

Figure 38. Potential yields of water to wells completed in the surficial aquifer system are greatest in areas of outwash deposits in the northern and western parts of the Fox-Wolf River basin. Intermediate yields can be expected from sandy morainal and glacial-lake deposits in the central part of the basin. Only minimal yields can be expected from clayey morainal and glacial-lake deposits in the southern and eastern parts of the basin.



EXPLANATION

Dissolved-solids concentration, in milligrams per liter

- 100 to 200
- 200 to 300
- 300 to 400
- 400 to 600
- - - Surface-water divide—Approximately located
- Ground-water divide—Approximately located

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey, National Atlas, 1:2,000,000, 1970
Modified from Olcott, 1968
SCALE 1:1,500,000
0 10 20 MILES
0 10 20 KILOMETERS

Figure 39. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the surficial aquifer system in the Fox-Wolf River basin generally are least in permeable outwash and sandy glacial-lake deposits, and greatest in clayey morainal and glacial-lake deposits.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Withdrawals of freshwater from the surficial aquifer system in Segment 9 during 1985 were about 1,495 million gallons per day (fig. 40). Public supply and agricultural withdrawals accounted for two-thirds of the total; domestic and commercial, and industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power withdrawals comprised the remaining one-third. Withdrawals during 1985, in million gallons per day, for each of the four States and the percentage withdrawn for each use category are shown in figure 41. The largest rates of withdrawal from the surficial aquifer system were in Minnesota and Michigan with 434 and 426 million gallons per day withdrawn, respectively. This probably reflects the generally small areal extent and less productive nature of the bedrock aquifers in the two States. The less productive character of the surficial aquifer system in Iowa and the presence of productive bedrock aquifers in Iowa and Wisconsin account for the smaller withdrawals of 338 and 297 million gallons per day from Iowa and Wisconsin, respectively.

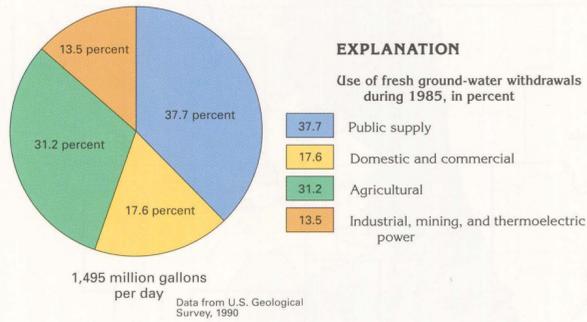


Figure 40. Principal uses of freshwater from the surficial aquifer system in Segment 9 totaled 1,495 million gallons per day during 1985.

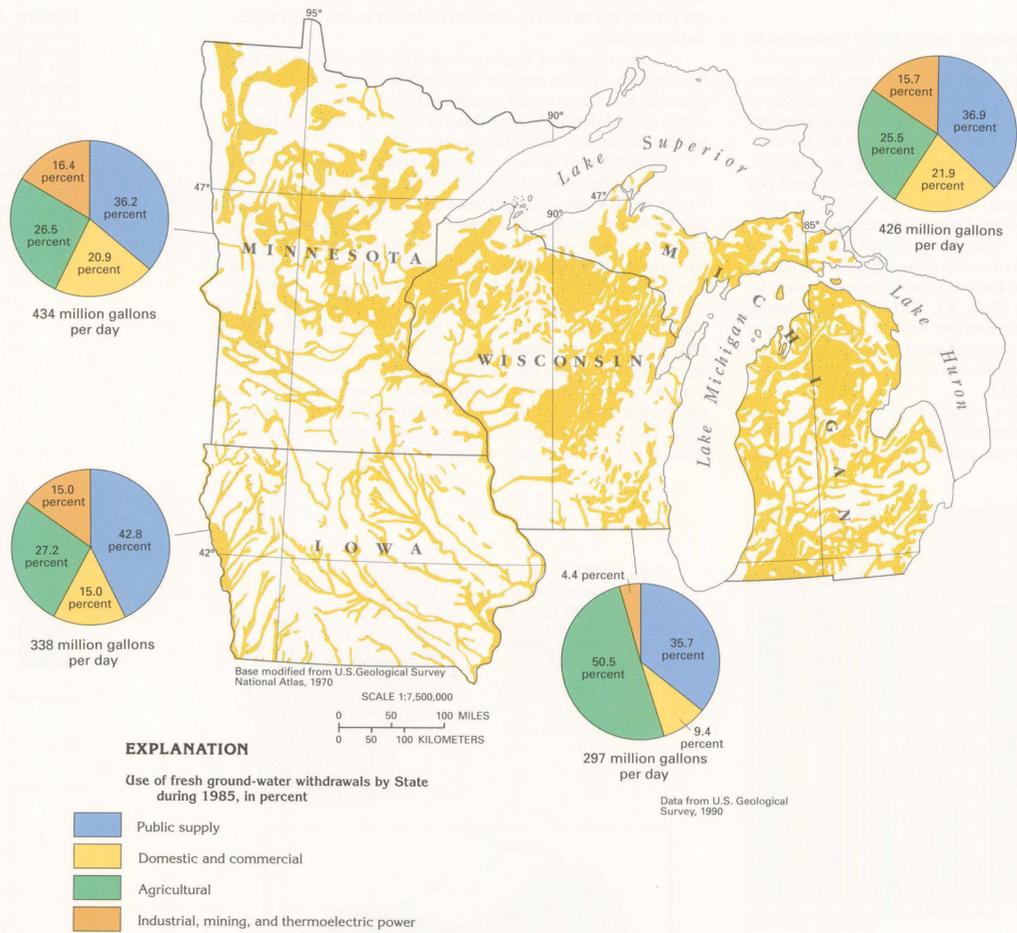


Figure 41. Freshwater withdrawals from the surficial aquifer system during 1985 were dominated by public supply and agricultural uses in each of the four States.

Cretaceous aquifer

INTRODUCTION

The Cretaceous aquifer is used principally in northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota (fig. 42) where it generally is the only source of ground water; however, it extends northward along the western Minnesota border as outliers and southward into southern and central Iowa (fig. 42). The aquifer consists of thick to thin, discontinuous sandstone beds overlain in places by limestone and shale beds that confine the aquifer. In other places, the aquifer is directly overlain by glacial deposits. In its principal area of use, the Cretaceous aquifer ranges from about 90 to 170 feet in thickness. Although the aquifer contains gypsum, which, when dissolved, markedly increases sulfate concentrations in the ground water, the aquifer is extensively pumped to supply domestic, small-community, and agricultural needs.

HYDROGEOLOGY

The Cretaceous aquifer is part of a sequence of sandstone, limestone, and shale deposited during the Cretaceous Period by five major transgressive-regressive marine cycles that inundated Minnesota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin from the west. These rocks were deposited on an irregular erosional surface that had a maximum relief of about 1,400 feet. They were deposited primarily as fluviodeltaic deposits on crystalline and sedimentary rocks of Precambrian and Paleozoic ages. A pre-Cretaceous regolith, which developed on the underlying rocks, ranges in thickness from a feather edge to 200 feet.

The surface of the Cretaceous sequence was deeply eroded prior to glaciation, and the Cretaceous rocks have been removed completely in some areas. Similarly, these rocks are thin or missing over highs on the underlying unconformity, such as the Sioux Quartzite Ridge and the Transcontinental Arch (fig. 42) of southwestern Minnesota. Cretaceous rocks are present primarily in the western parts of Minnesota and Iowa and as minor outliers in other parts of those States (fig. 42). The area where Cretaceous rocks yield sufficient water to wells for water supplies is in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa as shown in figure 42.

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Cenozoic	Quaternary and late Tertiary	Glacial deposits	Sand and gravel	Surficial aquifer system
		Cretaceous	Carlile Shale	Shale
Codell Sandstone Member	Sandstone		Local aquifer	
Greenhorn Limestone	Limestone		Confining unit	
Graneros Shale	Shale		Confining unit	
Paleozoic	Undifferentiated sedimentary rocks	Dakota Formation	Sandstone	Cretaceous aquifer
		Pennsylvanian	Shale	Aquifers and confining units
		Mississippian	Dolomite	
		Devonian	Dolomite	
		Silurian	Dolomite	
Ordovician	Dolomite			
Cambrian	Sandstone			
Precambrian	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rock		

Figure 43. The Cretaceous aquifer consists of discontinuous sandstone beds in the Dakota Formation, which is the lowermost Cretaceous unit in Minnesota and Iowa.

Modified from Burkhart, 1984

The Cretaceous aquifer consists of discontinuous sandstone beds in the Dakota Formation. Although some water is obtained locally from the Codell Sandstone Member of the Carlile Shale (fig. 43), this unit is not considered to be part of the Cretaceous aquifer. Water in the Dakota Formation is confined by the overlying Graneros Shale and locally by fine-grained glacial deposits that overlie the eroded surface of the Cretaceous rocks (figs. 43, 44). The potentiometric surface of water in the Cretaceous aquifer is above the top of the aquifer in most places. The vertical hydraulic gradient in the overlying glacial deposits, however, is downward, and recharge to the Cretaceous aquifer is from the surficial aquifer system,

mostly through the confining beds (fig. 44). Locally, the Cretaceous aquifer also is connected hydraulically to underlying aquifers in Paleozoic and Precambrian rocks. Water moves downward to these aquifers from the Cretaceous aquifer in highland areas. However, the hydraulic gradient is reversed, and water moves upward into the Cretaceous aquifer from the deeper aquifers at major points of discharge, such as the Big Sioux River (fig. 44). Regional water movement in the Cretaceous aquifer primarily is from a potentiometric-surface high on the Sioux Quartzite Ridge in Minnesota northeastward to the Minnesota River and southwestward to the Big Sioux River (fig. 45) in Iowa where the water is discharged.

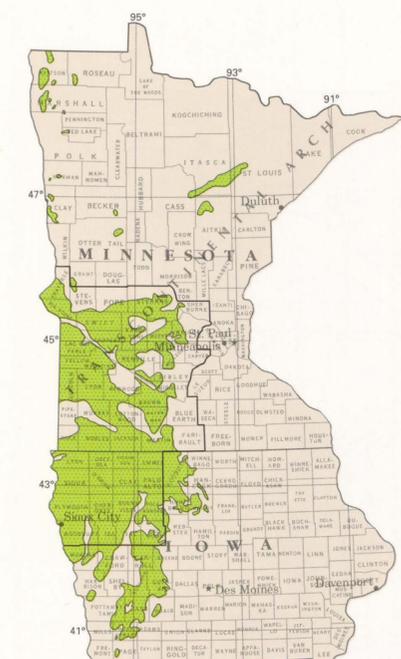


Figure 42. The Cretaceous aquifer is present primarily in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa and is used mostly as a water supply in these parts of the States.

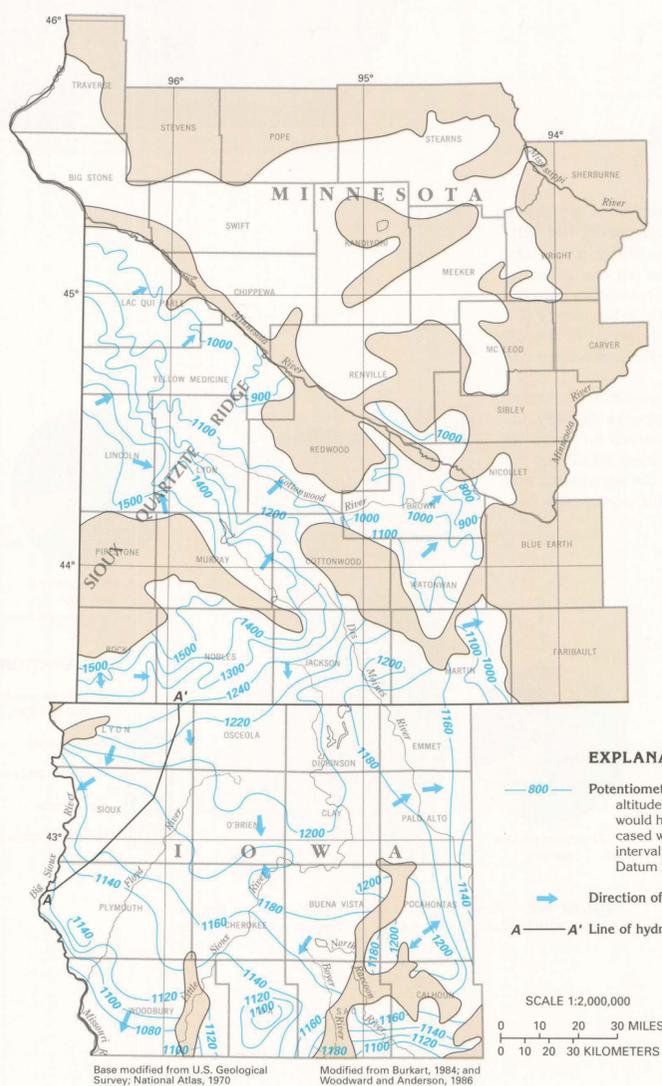
Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1970. Modified from Burkhart, 1984; and Woodward and Anderson, 1986.

EXPLANATION

- Cretaceous aquifer
- Limit of principal use of Cretaceous aquifer

SCALE 1:7,500,000
0 50 100 MILES
0 50 100 KILOMETERS

Figure 45. The potentiometric surface of the Cretaceous aquifer indicates that water moves primarily toward the Minnesota River in the north and toward the Big Sioux River in the southwest where the water discharges.



EXPLANATION

- 800 Potentiometric contour—Shows altitude at which water level would have stood in tightly cased wells in 1980. Contour interval, in feet, is variable. Datum is sea level
- Direction of ground-water movement
- A—A' Line of hydrogeologic section

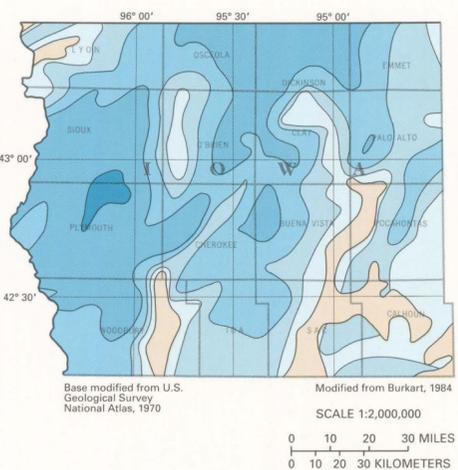
SCALE 1:2,000,000
0 10 20 30 MILES
0 10 20 30 KILOMETERS

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1970. Modified from Burkhart, 1984; and Woodward and Anderson, 1986.

Figure 46. The potential yield of water from the Cretaceous aquifer in Iowa to properly constructed wells ranges from less than 100 gallons per minute to slightly more than 1,000 gallons per minute, but average yields are about 250 gallons per minute.

EXPLANATION

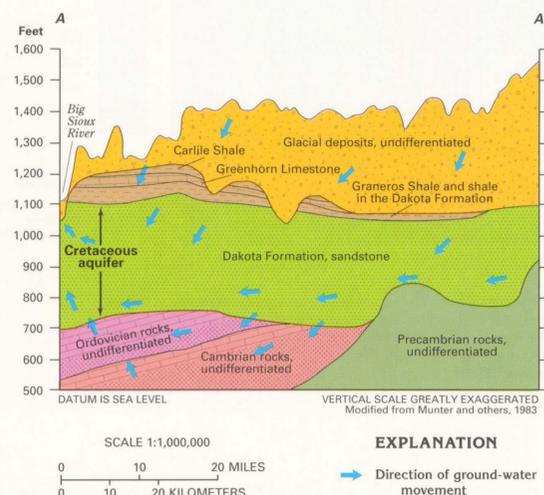
- Potential yield of water to wells, in gallons per minute
- 100
- 250
- 500
- 1,000



SCALE 1:2,000,000
0 10 20 30 MILES
0 10 20 30 KILOMETERS

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1970. Modified from Burkhart, 1984.

Figure 44. The Cretaceous aquifer is confined by shale beds in the upper part of the Dakota Formation, by the Graneros Shale, and locally by fine-grained glacial deposits that overlie the eroded surface of the Cretaceous rocks (figs. 43, 44). The potentiometric surface of water in the Cretaceous aquifer is above the top of the aquifer in most places. The vertical hydraulic gradient in the overlying glacial deposits, however, is downward, and recharge to the Cretaceous aquifer is from the surficial aquifer system,



EXPLANATION

- Direction of ground-water movement

SCALE 1:1,000,000
0 10 20 MILES
0 10 20 KILOMETERS

VERTICAL SCALE GREATLY EXAGGERATED
Modified from Munter and others, 1983

Table 2. Hydraulic properties and thickness of the Cretaceous aquifer have been determined at five sites in Iowa where aquifer tests have been conducted

[Modified from Burkhart, 1984]			
Location in Iowa	Hydraulic conductivity (feet per day)	Transmissivity (feet squared per day)	Thickness of aquifer (feet)
Hosteng irrigation site, Sac County	37	4,600	124
Ritz irrigation site, Plymouth County	48	7,600	157
Southern Sioux County Rural Water System, Inc., Plymouth County	50	7,400	148
Hansen irrigation site, Osceola County	44	3,900	89
Hibbing irrigation site, Sioux County	40	6,400	162

The Cretaceous aquifer in parts of southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa is the most extensive source of ground water in these areas, and it is intensively used even though there are limitations on its use imposed by quality, well-yield, and depth factors. The water tends to contain large concentrations of dissolved solids, especially because sulfate concentrations commonly exceed 1,000 milligrams per liter; in some areas, wells have small yields of less than 2 to 10 gallons per minute; and the aquifer is buried by glacial deposits to depths of 700 feet or more near the southern Minnesota border. In spite of limitations, many wells have been completed in the aquifer for domestic and stock supplies, and 36 communities in Minnesota have used or are presently using the aquifer for municipal supplies.

Estimated well yields from the Cretaceous aquifer where it is extensively used in Iowa are shown in figure 46. Here, estimated well yields range from less than 100 to slightly more than 1,000 gallons per minute; the range of estimated well yields probably is similar in Minnesota. Hydraulic-conductivity, transmissivity, and thickness values for the Cretaceous aquifer at five sites in Iowa are listed in table 2. Hydraulic-conductivity values ranged from 37 to 50 feet per day; transmissivity values ranged from 3,900 to 7,600 feet squared per day; and thickness values ranged from 89 to 162 feet.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

Water from the Cretaceous aquifer generally can be characterized as a calcium magnesium sulfate type. The water typically is very hard (hardness greater than 180 milligrams per liter as calcium carbonate); hardness ranges from 22 to 1,600 milligrams per liter (table 3). Dissolved-solids concentrations (fig. 47; table 3) range from 251 to 3,540 milligrams per liter. Many samples contain concentrations of radionuclides (radium-226, radium-228) in excess of the 5 picocuries per liter allowed in public water supplies.

Dissolved-sulfate concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer (fig. 48) exceed 1,000 milligrams per liter in large areas of Minnesota and Iowa and range from 0.5 to 1,700 milligrams per liter (table 3). Sulfate concentrations are generally greatest near recharge areas; this is the result of leaching of gypsum and other sulfate-bearing rocks by water entering the aquifer. Sulfate concentrations, which generally are least in areas of discharge, such as along the Big Sioux River in the

southwestern part of the aquifer (fig. 45), might be a result of reduction of sulfate by anaerobic bacteria.

Iron and manganese also generally are present in large concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer. Iron concentrations exceeded 300 micrograms per liter in about 80 percent of 28 samples collected in Iowa; manganese concentrations exceeded 50 micrograms per liter in about 56 percent of the same 28 samples.

Sodium concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer are sufficiently small in Iowa to make the water generally acceptable for irrigation. Sodium concentrations range from 4.5 to 1,200 milligrams per liter (table 3). Water that has extremely large concentrations of sodium can only be applied to crops on well-drained soils and when there is adequate leaching time. Sodium concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer in Minnesota range from 100 to 1,000 milligrams per liter. Large concentrations are attributed to ion exchange and the influx of saltwater from Cretaceous rocks in North and South Dakota.

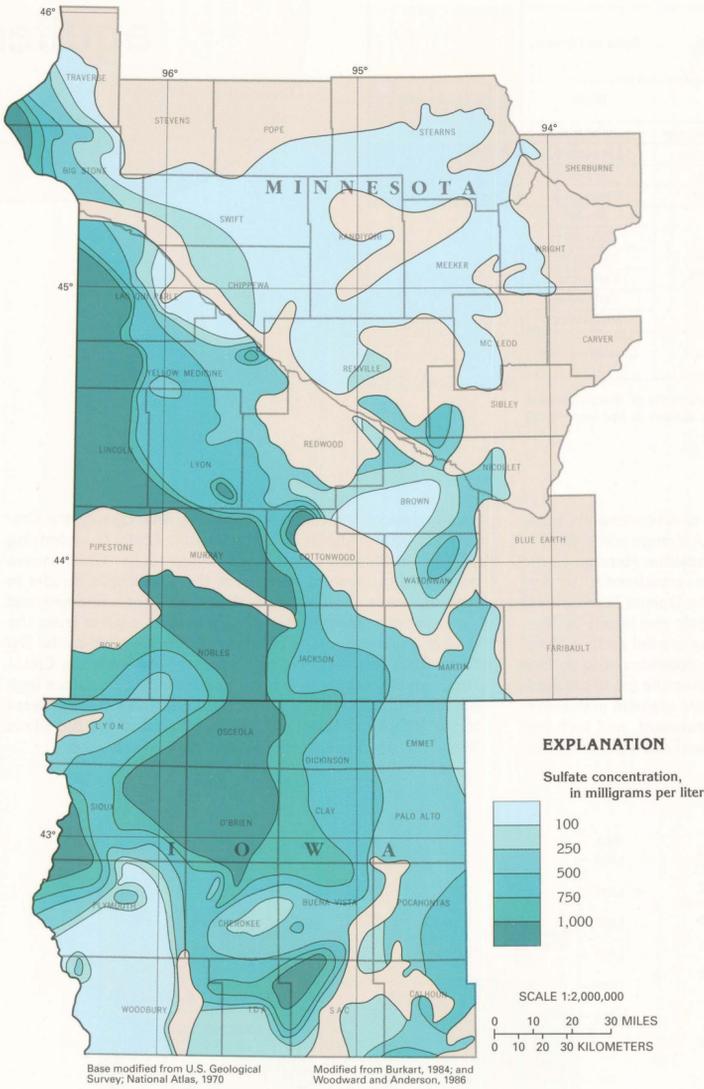


Figure 48. The dissolved-sulfate concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer range from less than 100 milligrams per liter to about 1,700 milligrams per liter and average about 500 milligrams per liter. Gypsum in the aquifer is the source of the sulfate.

Table 3. Average anion and cation concentrations from a large number of analyses indicate water from the Cretaceous aquifer is very hard and has large sulfate concentrations

[Modified from Woodward and Anderson, 1986. —, no established maximum contaminant level]

Property or constituent	Recommended maximum contaminant level ¹	Concentration (milligrams per liter)		Number of analyses
		Range	Average	
Hardness as CaCO ₃	—	22 to 1,600	470	52
Calcium (Ca)	—	0.7 to 400	120	154
Magnesium (Mg)	—	.2 to 150	44	152
Sodium (Na)	—	4.5 to 1,200	180	154
Potassium (K)	—	.8 to 73	8	143
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	—	95 to 910	430	154
Sulfate (SO ₄)	250	.5 to 1,700	460	154
Chloride (Cl)	250	1 to 1,500	84	68
Silica (SiO ₂)	—	.9 to 41	15	143
Dissolved solids	500	251 to 3,540	1,070	154

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1979

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Cretaceous aquifer during 1985 totaled 87 million gallons per day (fig. 49). Of the total, 10 million gallons per day was withdrawn in southwestern Minnesota, and 77 million gallons per day in northwestern Iowa. Withdrawals from the Cretaceous aquifer exceeded those from the Mississippian aquifer in Segment 9 (67 million gallons per day) and were nearly equal to the 88 million gallons per day withdrawn from the Pennsylvanian aquifer (fig. 25).

About 50 percent of the water withdrawn from the Cretaceous aquifer was used for agricultural purposes (fig. 49), including irrigation. Public-supply use accounted for about 30 percent, and domestic and commercial uses accounted for about 14 percent. Only about 7 percent of the withdrawals was used for industrial, mining, or thermoelectric-power purposes.

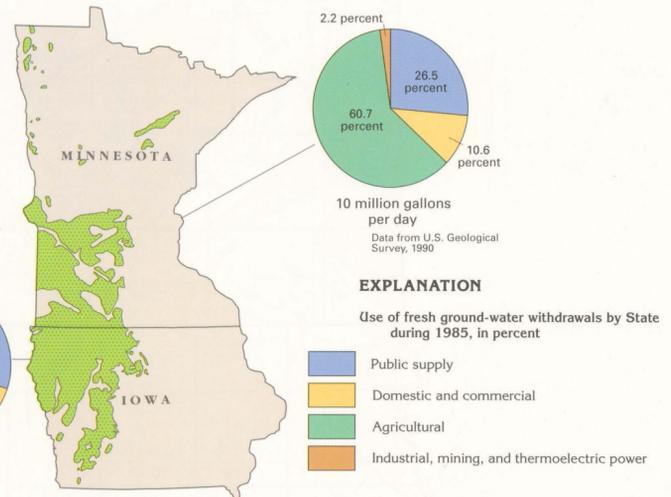
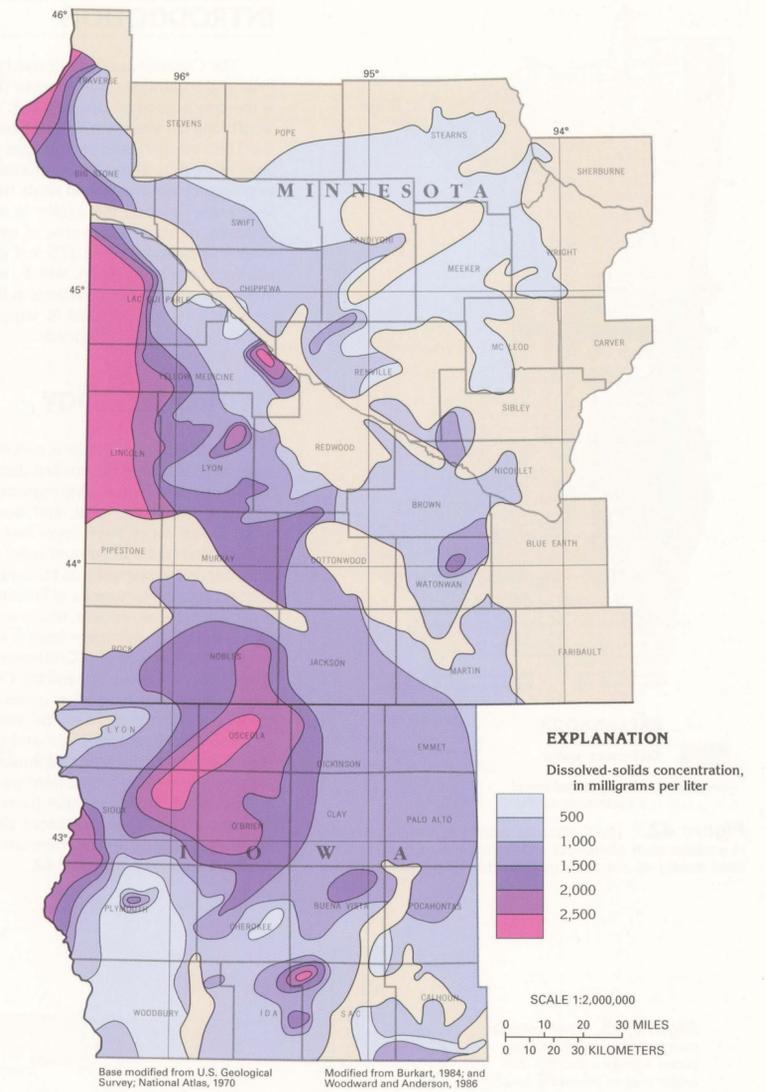


Figure 49. Fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Cretaceous aquifer during 1985 totaled 87 million gallons per day.

Figure 47. The dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Cretaceous aquifer range from about 250 to about 3,500 milligrams per liter and average about 1,000 milligrams per liter.



INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvanian aquifer is present only in the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 50), where it is called the Grand River–Saginaw aquifer and forms a major source of water for municipal, industrial, and domestic supply. The aquifer consists of sandstone with some interbedded shale. The central part of the Pennsylvanian aquifer is overlain by a confining unit in rocks of Jurassic age, but, elsewhere, the aquifer subcrops at the bedrock surface under the surficial aquifer system that is the principal source of recharge.

HYDROGEOLOGY

Rocks of Pennsylvanian age are present in only two parts of the four-State area—in much of the southwestern part of Iowa and the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. In Iowa, Pennsylvanian rocks are not an aquifer; rather, they overlie and confine older, more permeable rocks and underlie, in part, the Cretaceous aquifer. In Michigan, Pennsylvanian rocks, which consist of the Grand River and the Saginaw Formations (fig. 51), form a major and productive aquifer. They occupy a central position in the Michigan Basin (fig. 10) and are the youngest bedrock in that basin except for a thin, red, sandy, shaly sandstone formation (fig. 51) of Jurassic age that overlies part of the Pennsylvanian aquifer. These Jurassic red beds range from a featheredge to slightly more than 300 feet in thickness (fig. 52). They are hydrologically significant only as a confining unit for the Pennsylvanian aquifer.

In Michigan, Pennsylvanian rocks consist of sandstone and siltstone with interbedded shale, limestone, coal, and gypsum. They range in thickness from a featheredge to a maximum of slightly more than 700 feet (fig. 53) but generally are less than 300 feet thick. The Grand River Formation (fig. 51) is a sandstone that fills erosional valleys in the underlying Saginaw Formation. The Saginaw Formation (fig. 51) consists of sandstone and siltstone in the Lansing area and fine-grained sandstone and siltstone interbedded with shale, limestone, coal, and gypsum in the Saginaw Bay area. The Saginaw Formation is extensively eroded and variable in thickness. Sandstone beds of the Grand River Formation generally are hydraulically connected with the underlying Saginaw Formation, and the two formations comprise the Pennsylvanian aquifer.

The Pennsylvanian aquifer is most productive where it is overlain by, and hydraulically connected with, the surficial aquifer system. The thickness of the Pennsylvanian aquifer also affects well yields; the aquifer yields moderate quantities of water where it is thickest. Thirty-four specific-capacity values reported for the Pennsylvanian aquifer in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan ranged from 1 to 99 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown, and eight transmissivity values ranged from 3,000 to 37,000 feet squared per day. Two reported values of the coefficient of storage were 9×10^{-5} and 3×10^{-4} , which indicate confined conditions.

Recharge to the Pennsylvanian aquifer is from water that percolates downward through the surficial aquifer system and confining units overlying the aquifer. In the aquifer, water moves mostly horizontally along flow paths of 50 to 100 miles in length from areas where the hydraulic head is about 900 feet above sea level in the northwestern and southern parts toward the center of the aquifer and then northeastward to Saginaw Bay, where the water is discharged at an altitude of about 600 feet above sea level (fig. 54). The occurrence of saltwater in the lower part of the aquifer in places where it is covered by Jurassic red beds indicates that water is moving more slowly in that area. Discharge of the saltwater from the aquifer in the Saginaw Bay area indicates some movement of water through the saltwater zone of the aquifer. The principal movement, however, might be in the upper part of the aquifer and on the periphery of the saltwater zone.

Estimated potential well yields from the Pennsylvanian aquifer in the three-county example area of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties range from less than 50 to 900 gallons per minute (fig. 55), depending on thickness, fracturing, and degree of interconnection with the overlying surficial aquifer system.

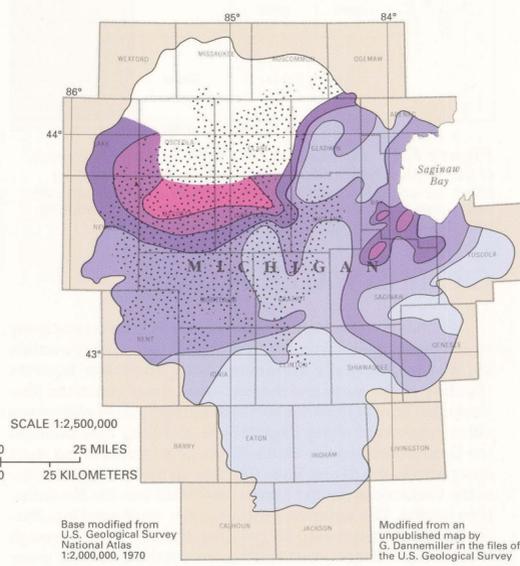


Figure 56. Water in the Pennsylvanian aquifer generally contains less than 1,000 milligrams per liter dissolved solids in areas where the aquifer is overlain by glacial deposits, except near Saginaw Bay where saltwater discharges from the aquifer. The water generally is most mineralized where the aquifer is overlain by Jurassic red beds.

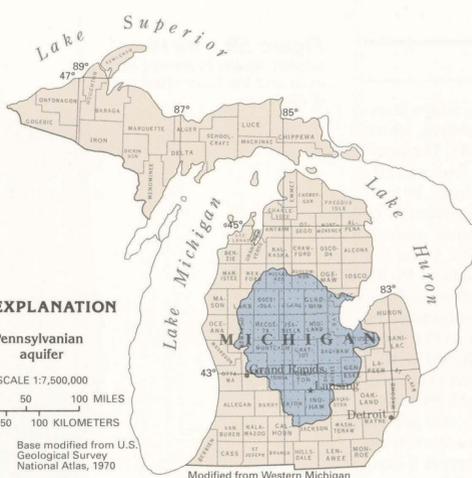
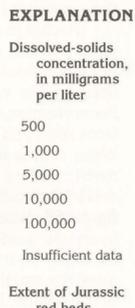


Figure 50. The Pennsylvanian aquifer is present only in the central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

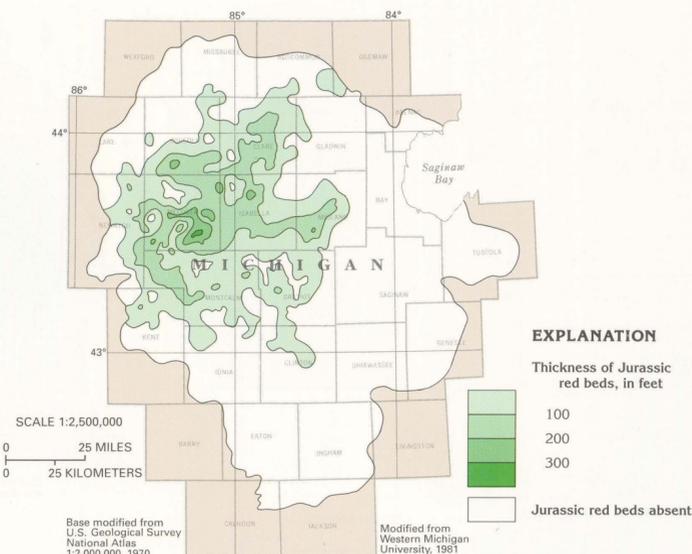


Figure 52. The thickness of the Jurassic red beds ranges from a featheredge to slightly more than 300 feet.

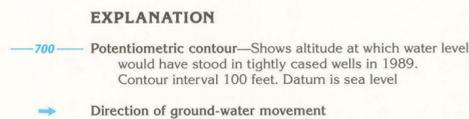
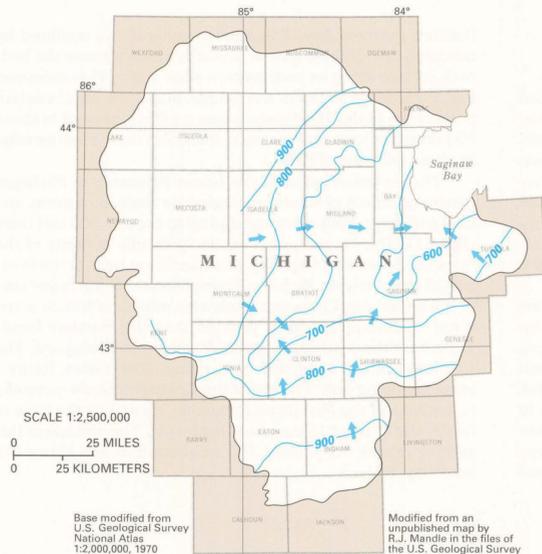


Figure 54. Water in the Pennsylvanian aquifer moves from northwestern and southern recharge areas to discharge at Saginaw Bay.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

Water from the Pennsylvanian aquifer generally is salty (dissolved-solids concentrations in excess of 1,000 milligrams per liter); the average dissolved-solids concentrations is 1,600 milligrams per liter, but, in areas where the aquifer subcrops beneath the surficial aquifer system, the water is fresh (dissolved-solids concentrations range from 300 to 700 milligrams per liter). Where the aquifer is deeply buried, however, and in areas where it is overlain by Jurassic red beds, wells commonly yield saltwater with dissolved-solids concentrations that range from 1,000 to about 100,000 milligrams per liter, as shown in figure 56. In the area near Saginaw Bay, where ground water is discharged from the Pennsylvanian aquifer, the water is salty because of its long residence time in the aquifer and because of freshwater mixing with saltwater at depth.

Freshwater in the Pennsylvanian aquifer tends to be of a mixed ion type, as shown in figure 57. Conversely, saltwater in the Pennsylvanian aquifer tends to be a sodium chloride type.

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Mesozoic	Jurassic	Unnamed red beds	Shaly sandstone	Red beds confining unit
		Grand River Formation	Sandstone and shale	Pennsylvanian aquifer
Paleozoic	Pennsylvanian	Saginaw Formation	Sandstone	Bayport–Michigan confining unit
		Bayport Limestone	Limestone	
Mississippian	Grand Rapids Group	Michigan Formation	Dolomitic shale	

Figure 51. The Pennsylvanian aquifer in Michigan consists of the Saginaw and Grand River Formations, both of which are permeable and water yielding. The aquifer is overlain, in part, by either the surficial aquifer system or the red beds confining unit and is underlain by the Bayport–Michigan confining unit.

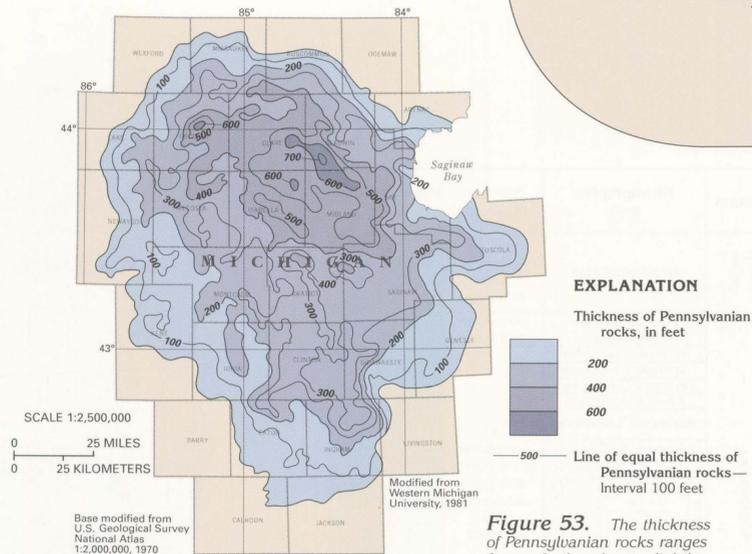


Figure 53. The thickness of Pennsylvanian rocks ranges from a featheredge to slightly more than 700 feet.

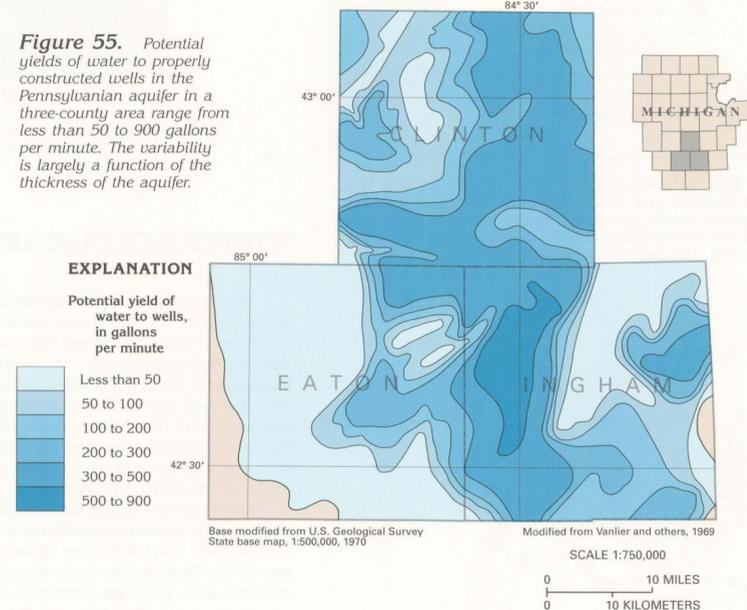


Figure 55. Potential yields of water to properly constructed wells in the Pennsylvanian aquifer in a three-county area range from less than 50 to 900 gallons per minute. The variability is largely a function of the thickness of the aquifer.

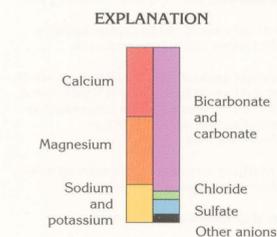
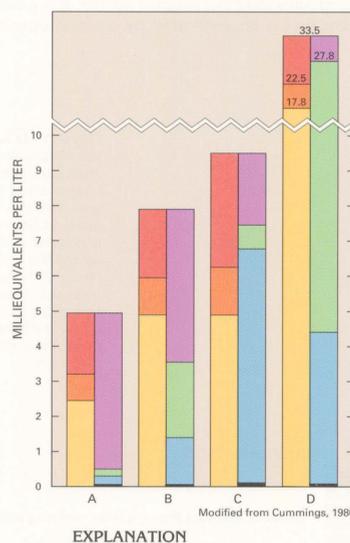


Figure 57. Where mineralization in water from the Pennsylvanian aquifer is minimal, the water is a mixed ion type (analysis A), but, as dissolved-solids concentrations increase, sodium and chloride or sodium and sulfate become prominent (analyses B–D).

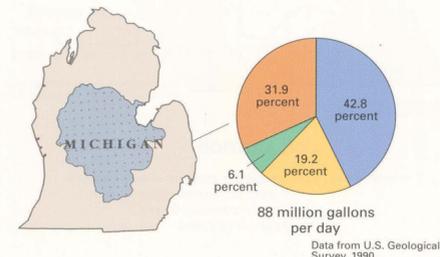


Figure 58. Withdrawals of fresh ground water from the Pennsylvanian aquifer were 88 million gallons per day during 1985.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Total fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Pennsylvanian aquifer were 88 million gallons per day during 1985 (fig. 58). Most of the water, 42.8 percent, or 37.7 million gallons per day, was used for public supply; 19.2 percent, or 16.9 million gallons per day, was used for domestic and commercial purposes; 6.1 percent, or 5.4 million gallons per day, was used for agricultural purposes; and 31.9 percent, or 28 million gallons per day, was used for industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power purposes.

Mississippian aquifer

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippian aquifer is present in Iowa, where it underlies about 60 percent of the State, and in Michigan, where it underlies much of the Lower Peninsula (fig. 59). The aquifer consists mainly of limestone and dolomite in Iowa and siltstone and medium-grained sandstone in Michigan. In both States, the aquifer is overlain either by Pennsylvanian or younger rocks that confine the aquifer and restrict ground-water circulation. Where the Mississippian aquifer forms the bedrock surface in Iowa and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the aquifer generally is overlain by the surficial aquifer system. In Iowa, the Mississippian aquifer generally is confined by fine-grained glacial deposits in this subcrop area. In Michigan, the Mississippian aquifer generally is unconfined in this subcrop area and is hydraulically connected with extremely permeable glacial deposits. Wells completed in the Mississippian aquifer in these subcrop areas yield 900 to 1,000 gallons per minute in both States. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Mississippian aquifer in areas where it is confined generally exceed 500 milligrams per liter. Brine occurs in the deeper parts of the aquifer in confined areas.

Figure 59. The Mississippian aquifer is present in Iowa and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

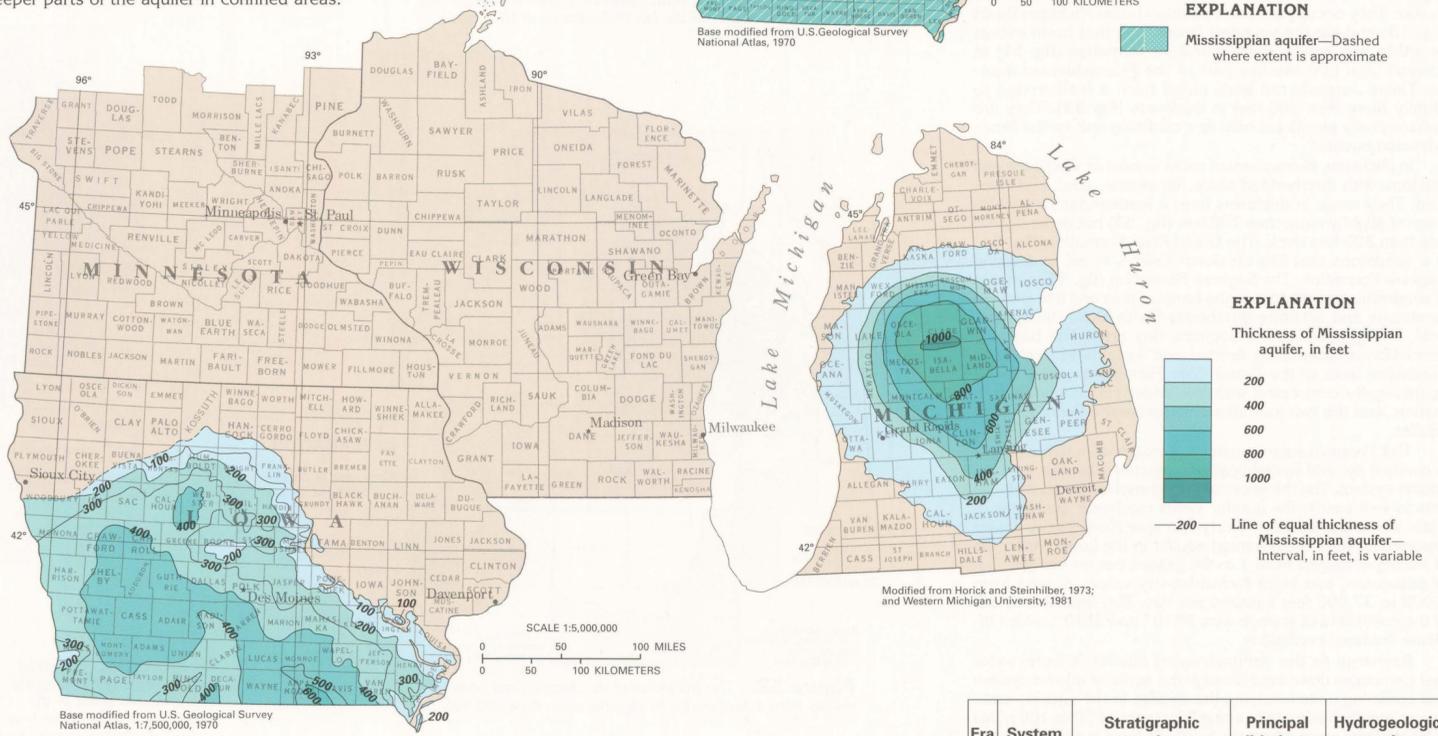
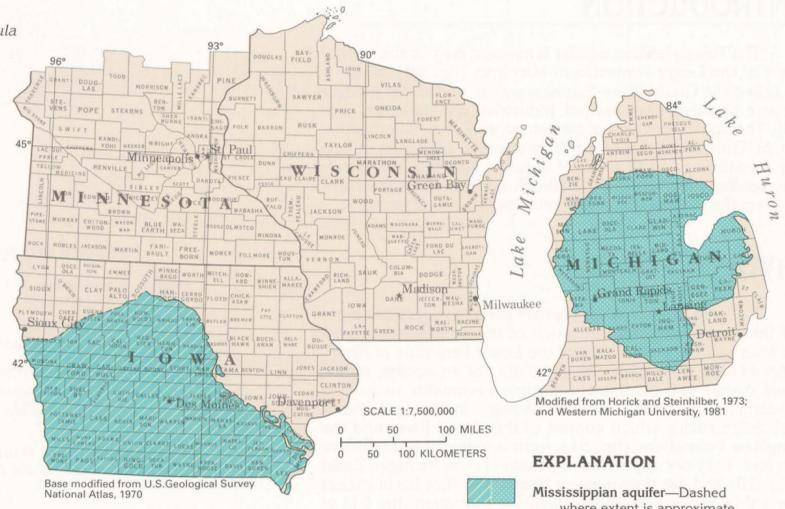


Figure 61. The Mississippian aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge to about 600 feet in Iowa and to about 1,000 feet in Michigan.

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Mississippian	Undifferentiated	Shale, limestone and dolomite	Mississippian aquifer
		Ste. Genevieve Limestone St. Louis Limestone Spergin Limestone Warsaw Limestone Keokuk Limestone Burlington Limestone Gilmore City Formation (north-central) Iowa Falls Member Dolomite (north-central) Eagle City Member (north-central) Hampton Formation Maynes Creek Member (north-central) Wassonville Limestone Member (southwest)	Limestone and dolomite with some sandstone and siltstone	
Devonian		Yellow Spring Group	Dolomite and shale	Confining unit

Figure 60. The Mississippian aquifer in Iowa consists mainly of limestone and dolomite. The aquifer is overlain in part by the surficial aquifer system, the Cretaceous aquifer, and the Pennsylvanian confining unit and is underlain by the Devonian confining unit. The gray area represents missing rocks.



Figure 63. The base of the Mississippian aquifer coincides with the base of freshwater in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The base of the aquifer is a bowl-shaped surface ranging in altitude from 200 to 800 feet above sea level.

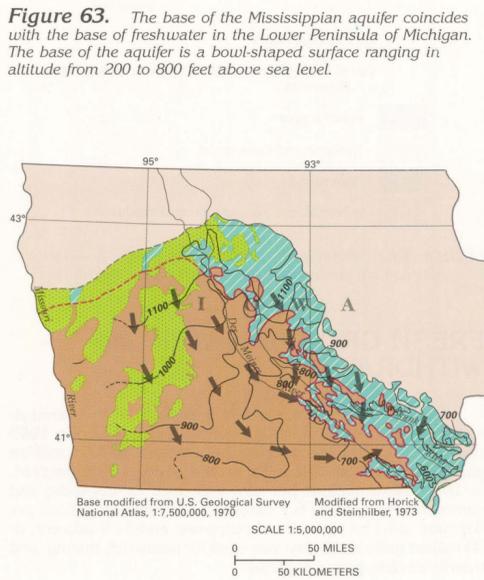


Figure 64. Most water in the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa moves southward, southeastward, or westward to the Des Moines and Skunk Rivers where the water is discharged. Some water in the western part of the aquifer moves southward into Missouri.

HYDROGEOLOGIC UNITS

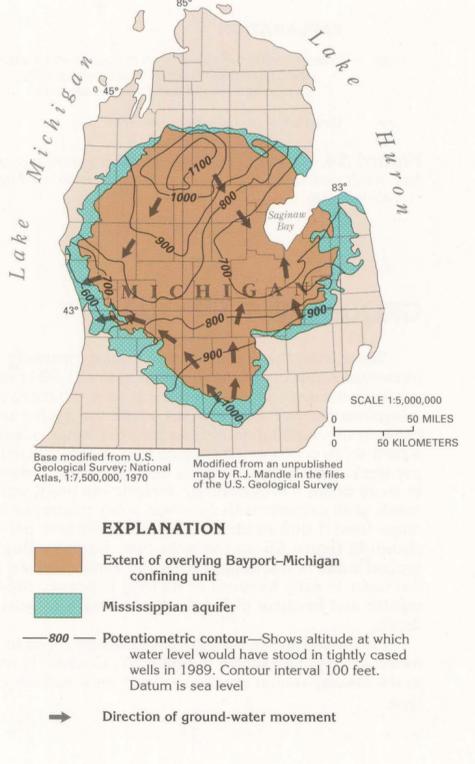
Mississippian rocks in Iowa are overlain by Pennsylvanian rocks, Cretaceous rocks, and glacial deposits, whereas Mississippian rocks in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan are overlain only by Pennsylvanian rocks and glacial deposits. In Iowa, Mississippian rocks dip gently southwestward from where they form the bedrock surface and steeply southward along the western border of the State; their altitude and thickness vary because of structural flexures and erosion. In Michigan, Mississippian rocks dip and thicken in a radial pattern toward the center of the Michigan Basin.

Mississippian rocks in Iowa consist principally of limestone and dolomite and some sandstone and siltstone. The only significant shale is in the Warsaw Limestone (fig. 60) in the upper part of the Mississippian rocks in southeastern Iowa. Gypsum and anhydrite beds are present in the Mississippian rocks, especially in the St. Louis and the Spergin Limestones in southeastern Iowa (fig. 60). The entire Mississippian section in Iowa constitutes the Mississippian aquifer. It is a carbonate-rock aquifer that is characterized by solution openings and

fracture permeability. The aquifer generally is confined by overlying fine-grained glacial deposits where it forms the bedrock surface along its northeastern edge and by Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous rocks in the southern and the southwestern parts of the State. The Mississippian aquifer is present in about 60 percent of Iowa and ranges in thickness from a featheredge to about 600 feet (fig. 61).

Mississippian rocks in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan generally consist of sandstone and some shale, limestone, and coal and range from a featheredge up to about 1,000 feet thick (fig. 61). The Mississippian aquifer primarily consists of the Marshall Sandstone (fig. 62); thin sandstone beds in the lower part of the overlying Michigan Formation and in the upper part of the underlying Coldwater Shale also might contribute some water. Mississippian rocks younger than the Marshall Sandstone form the overlying Bayport-Michigan confining unit. The Coldwater Shale, along with underlying older shales, forms a lower confining unit. The top of the Coldwater Shale generally is the base of the Mississippian aquifer, as well as the base of freshwater in most of the Lower Peninsula. The altitude of this surface ranges from about 200 to about 800 feet above sea level (fig. 63).

Figure 65. Water in the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan moves from recharge areas in the northern and southern areas eastward to Saginaw Bay and westward to Lake Michigan where the water is discharged. Water probably does not move through the central area covered by the Bayport-Michigan confining unit where saltwater is present.



Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Mississippian	Grand Rapids Group	Bayport Limestone	Bayport-Michigan confining unit
			Michigan Formation	
		Marshall Sandstone	Sandstone	Mississippian aquifer
		Coldwater Shale	Shale	Coldwater Shale confining unit
Mississippian and Devonian		Sunbury Shale (east)	Shale	
		Berea Sandstone (east)	Sandstone	
		Ellsworth Shale (west)	Bedford Shale (east)	
		Antrim Shale	Shale	

Figure 62. The Mississippian aquifer in Michigan consists of the Marshall Sandstone. The aquifer is overlain in part by either the surficial aquifer system or the Bayport-Michigan confining unit and is underlain by the Coldwater Shale confining unit. The gray area represents missing rocks.

GROUND-WATER FLOW

Recharge to the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa is principally where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by, and hydraulically connected with, shallower aquifers (fig. 64). In the north and the northeast, water enters the Mississippian aquifer from the surficial aquifer system and moves either southward along intermediate and long flow paths to the Des Moines and the Skunk Rivers or westward along short flow paths to the Skunk River (fig. 64). In the northwest, water in the Cretaceous aquifer moves downward into the Mississippian aquifer. The water then moves either southward into Missouri or southeastward to the Des Moines River through solutionally enlarged joints and fractures in the limestone under the confining Pennsylvanian rocks.

Recharge to the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan is principally where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is directly overlain by, and hydraulically connected with, the surficial aquifer system to the north and the south of overlying Pennsylvanian rocks (fig. 65). Recharge from precipitation and from lakes and streams is through the surficial aquifer system. Water moves into the aquifer at high areas on the potentiometric surface to the north (1,100- and 1,000-foot contours) and to the south (1,000- and 900-foot contours), as shown in figure 65. Water moves from these recharge areas down the hydraulic gradient to Saginaw Bay on the east and to Lake Michigan on the west. Because of the minimal aquifer transmissivity and the occurrence of dense brine in the central part of the aquifer, little ground-water movement probably occurs. The principal movement of water in the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan, therefore, is probably largely restricted to peripheral areas of the aquifer.

WELL YIELDS

In north-central Iowa, where the Mississippian aquifer is overlain by either the surficial aquifer system or the Cretaceous aquifer, joints and fractures have been enlarged by dissolution, and the Mississippian aquifer yields large quantities of water to wells; the specific capacity of wells completed in this part of the aquifer generally ranges from 1 to 5 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown and can be as much as about 10 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown (fig. 66). In the remainder of the aquifer, the specific capacity generally is 1 gallon per minute per foot of drawdown or less (fig. 66).

Potential well yields from the Mississippian aquifer in the north-central and the southeastern parts of the area in Iowa where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface are summarized in table 4. Yields generally are greatest (about 5–20 gallons per minute) from the Gilmore City and the Hampton Formations and the North Hill Group in the north-central part of the area and are least (about 3–10 gallons per minute) from

the Ste. Genevieve, the St. Louis, and the Spargen Limestones (table 4) in both parts of the area.

In Michigan, the Mississippian aquifer is one of the most important and productive aquifers in the State. Although much of the Mississippian aquifer is confined or semiconfined, unconfined conditions occur locally in the area where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface. Transmissivity values reported for the aquifer range from 2,700 to 67,000 feet squared per day depending primarily on differences in aquifer thickness and the size and the number of fractures in the aquifer. The aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge along the periphery to about 1,000 feet in the center of the Michigan basin (fig. 61). The aquifer has much larger transmissivity values near its periphery where it is thinner but contains larger and more numerous fractures than in the center of the basin. The Mississippian aquifer is used only in the southern part of the State and in the Saginaw Bay area because elsewhere either it contains water that is too salty for use or shallower aquifers are available.

Table 4. Yields of wells completed in the Mississippian aquifer generally are greatest in north-central Iowa where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface. The gray area represents missing rocks

[Modified from Horick and Steinhilber, 1973]

Period	Stratigraphic unit	Well yields in area where Mississippian aquifer forms the bedrock surface	
		North-central part of area	Southwestern part of area
Mississippian	Ste. Genevieve Limestone	Generally yields 3 to 10 gallons per minute and occasionally 10 to 25 gallons per minute to domestic wells. Municipal supplies of 40 to 50 gallons per minute have been developed locally.	
	St. Louis Limestone		
	Spargen Limestone		
	Warsaw Limestone		
	Keokuk Limestone		
	Burlington Limestone	Yields 5 to 15 gallons per minute to domestic wells; however, yields of 25 to 35 gallons per minute are possible.	Yields 5 to 15 gallons per minute to domestic wells; however, yields of only 3 gallons per minute or less may be expected at some places. Municipal supplies of 20 to 40 gallons per minute have been developed.
	Gilmore City Formation (north-central)	The Gilmore City Formation yields 5 to 20 gallons per minute to domestic wells; however, local yields are as much as 50 gallons per minute. Yields of several hundred gallons per minute have been reported from crevices in the formation. Yields from the combined Gilmore City and Hampton Formations are as much as 400 to 800 gallons per minute; equivalent yields probably are available throughout the area.	Generally yields only 1 to 3 gallons per minute to wells. Local yields of 10 to 30 gallons per minute have been reported. The North Hill Group may yield small supplies to wells.
	Iowa Falls Member (north-central)		
	Eagle City Member (north-central)		
	Hampton Formation		
Maynes Creek Member (north-central)	Wassonville Member (south-west)		
North Hill Group			

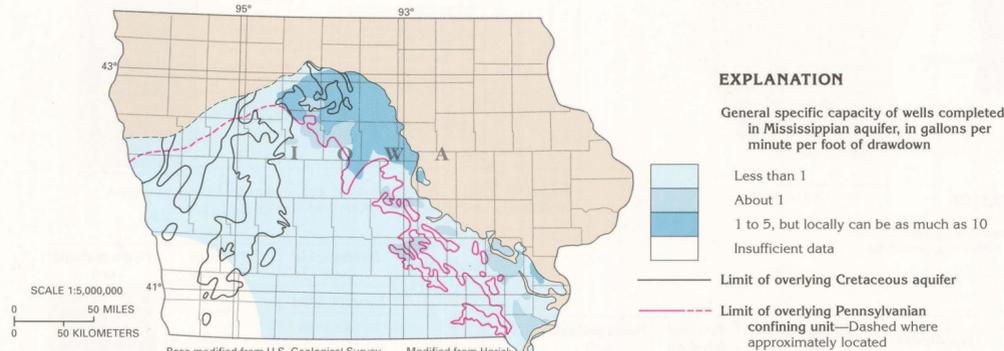


Figure 66. Specific capacity of wells completed in the Mississippian aquifer is greatest where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface.

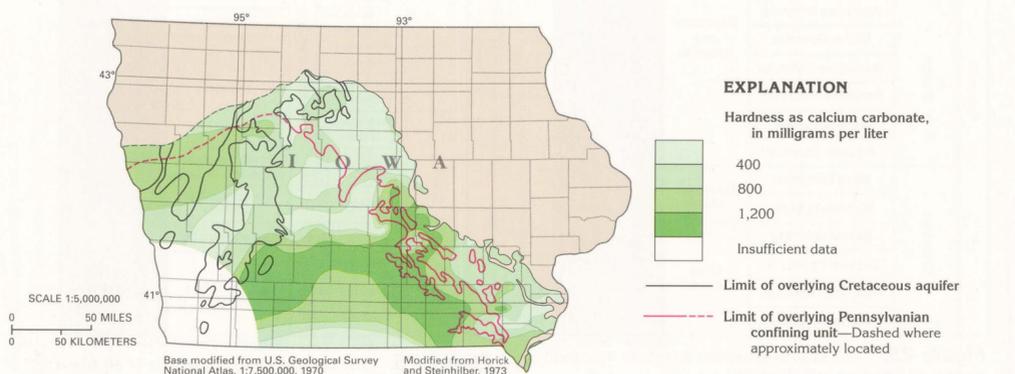


Figure 68. Hardness in water from the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa is less than 400 milligrams per liter in areas where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface, increases to more than 1,200 milligrams per liter down dip, and then decreases farther down dip, probably the result of ion exchange.

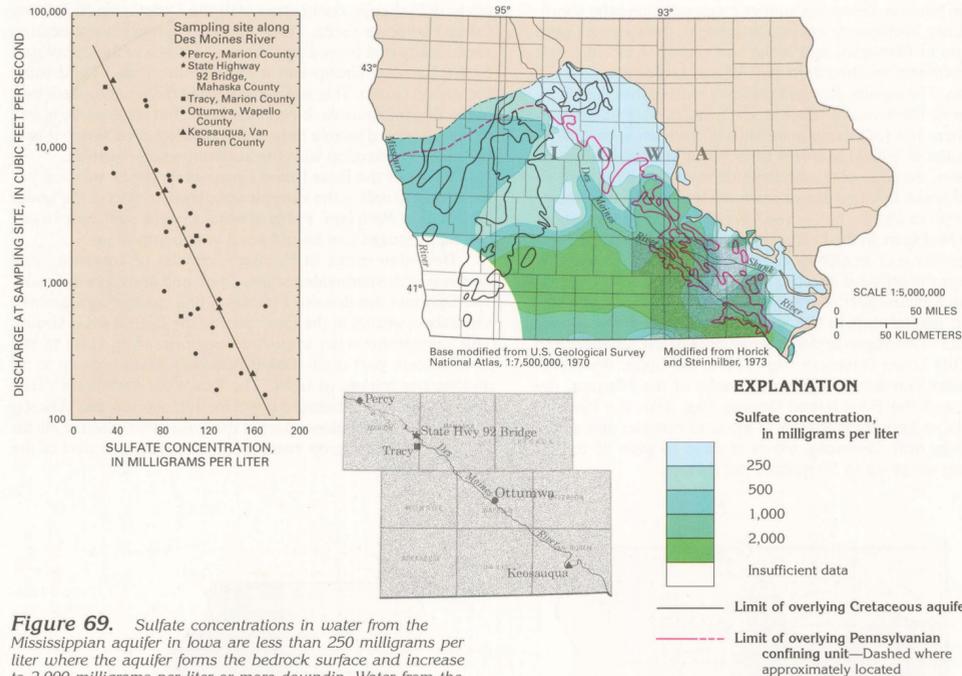


Figure 69. Sulfate concentrations in water from the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa are less than 250 milligrams per liter where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and increase to 2,000 milligrams per liter or more down dip. Water from the aquifer that discharges into the lower Des Moines River contains large concentrations of sulfate, which are especially noticeable during low-flow periods.

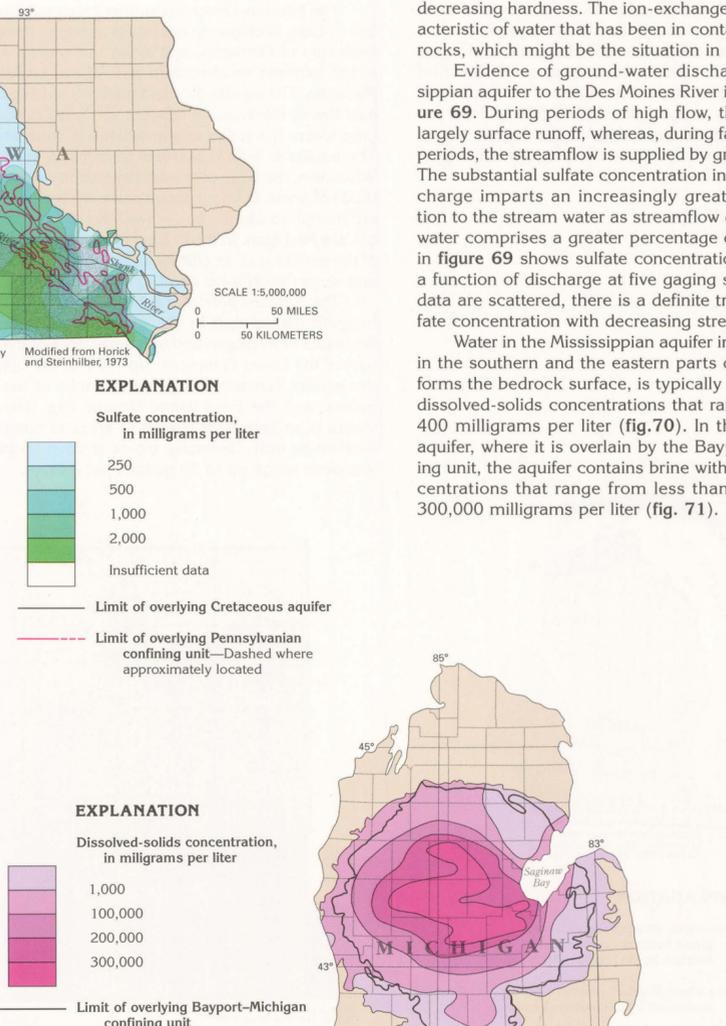


Figure 71. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan typically are less than 1,000 milligrams per liter where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface. Dissolved-solids concentrations increase to about 300,000 milligrams per liter where the aquifer is overlain by the Bayport-Michigan confining unit.

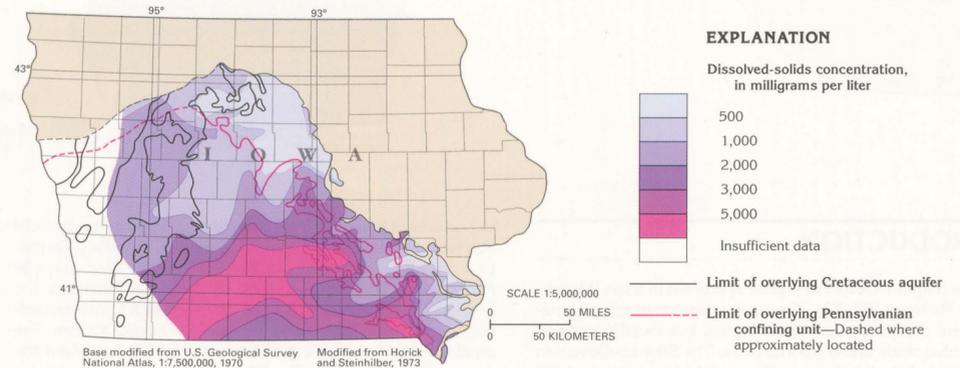


Figure 67. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa are less than 500 milligrams per liter in only a small part of the north-central and south-eastern parts of the State, principally where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

In Iowa, water in the Mississippian aquifer meets recommended drinking-water standards for public supply only in those areas where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface (fig. 67). Dissolved-solids concentrations range from less than 500 milligrams per liter to about 5,000 milligrams per liter in down dip areas. In areas where the Mississippian aquifer is overlain by the Cretaceous aquifer, water in the Mississippian aquifer has a dissolved-solids concentration of at least 1,500 milligrams per liter; hardness concentrations range from less than 400 to about 1,200 milligrams per liter (fig. 68); and sulfate concentrations range from less than 250 to about 2,000 milligrams per liter (fig. 69). These constituents show a pattern of increasing concentrations down dip except for the isolated case shown in figure 68 where hardness decreases in the central part of the down dip area. This decrease might result from ion exchange where calcium ions are selectively removed from the water and replaced by sodium ions, thereby decreasing hardness. The ion-exchange phenomenon is characteristic of water that has been in contact with shale or shaly rocks, which might be the situation in Iowa.

Evidence of ground-water discharge from the Mississippian aquifer to the Des Moines River in Iowa is shown in figure 69. During periods of high flow, the flow of the river is largely surface runoff, whereas, during fair-weather or low-flow periods, the streamflow is supplied by ground-water discharge. The substantial sulfate concentration in the ground-water discharge imparts an increasingly greater sulfate concentration to the stream water as streamflow decreases and ground water comprises a greater percentage of the flow. The graph in figure 69 shows sulfate concentration of stream water as a function of discharge at five gaging stations. Although the data are scattered, there is a definite trend of increasing sulfate concentration with decreasing streamflow.

Water in the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan, principally in the southern and the eastern parts of the aquifer where it forms the bedrock surface, is typically a mixed ion type with dissolved-solids concentrations that range between 200 and 400 milligrams per liter (fig. 70). In the central part of the aquifer, where it is overlain by the Bayport-Michigan confining unit, the aquifer contains brine with dissolved-solids concentrations that range from less than 1,000 to more than 300,000 milligrams per liter (fig. 71).

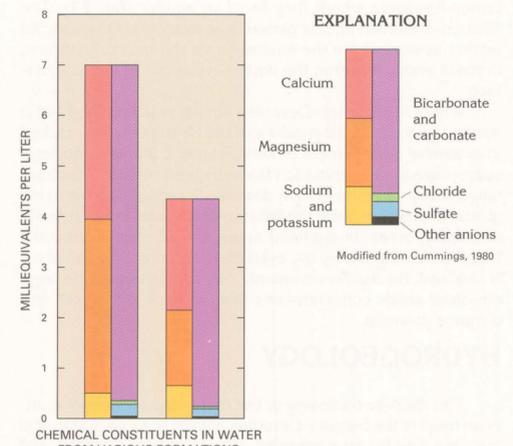


Figure 70. Water in the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan generally is a mixed ion type where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Withdrawals of freshwater from the Mississippian aquifer during 1985 totaled 67 million gallons per day; 22 million gallons per day was withdrawn in Iowa; and 45 million gallons per day was withdrawn in Michigan (fig. 72). By far the largest use of freshwater in Iowa, 71.0 percent, was for agricultural purposes, primarily stock watering, which totaled 15.6 million gallons per day during 1985. In the industrial State of Michigan, 45 percent of the freshwater, or about 20 million gallons per day, was used for industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power purposes. Public supply was the second principal use of freshwater from the Mississippian aquifer in Michigan; 34.2 percent of the total, or about 15.4 million gallons per day, was withdrawn for that purpose.

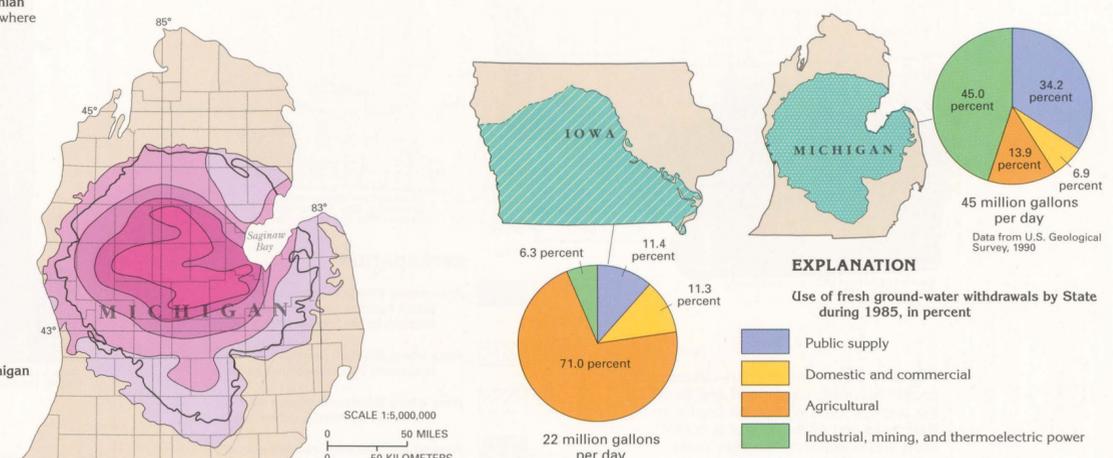


Figure 72. Water from the Mississippian aquifer in Iowa was withdrawn largely for agricultural purposes and in Michigan for public supply and industrial and mining purposes.

Silurian-Devonian aquifer

Figure 73. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is present in much of Iowa, eastern Wisconsin, and parts of Michigan.



Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Devonian	Yellow Spring Group	Shale	Confining unit
		Lime Creek Formation	Dolomite and shale	Western Iowa Eastern Iowa Confining unit
		Shell Rock Formation	Limestone	Local confining unit
		Cedar Valley Limestone	Limestone and dolomite	
		Wapsipinicon Formation	Limestone, dolomite, some shale and sandstone	Silurian-Devonian aquifer
Silurian	Gower Formation	Dolomite and limestone	Silurian-Devonian aquifer	
	Scotch Grove Formation			
	Hopkinton Dolomite			
	Blanding Formation			
Ordoevician	Tete des Mortes Formation	Dolomite	Maquoketa confining unit	
	Mosalem Formation	Dolomite		

Modified from Horick, 1984

Figure 74. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Iowa consists of dolomite and limestone of several stratigraphic units.

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Devonian	Ellsworth Shale	Shale	Confining unit
		Antrim Shale		
		Traverse Group	Limestone and basal shale	Silurian-Devonian aquifer
		Roger City Limestone	Limestone	
		Dundee Limestone	Dolomite	
		Detroit River Group		
		Sylvania Sandstone		
		Bois Blanc Formation	Dolomite	
		Garden Island Formation		
		Silurian	Bass Island Group	Limestone, shale, and evaporite beds
Salina Group				
Niagara Group	Limestone and dolomite			
Cataract Group	Shale and dolomite			
Richmond Group	Shale and limestone		Confining unit	

Modified from Western Michigan University, 1981

Figure 76. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Michigan consists primarily of dolomite and limestone with interbedded sandstone, shale, and evaporite beds. The Mackinac Breccia results from collapse of Devonian rocks after dissolution of some of the underlying Silurian evaporite beds.

INTRODUCTION

The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is present in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan (fig. 73). The aquifer consists mostly of limestone and dolomite in all three States, but locally contains interbedded shale and evaporite beds. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer underlies all but the northern part of Iowa, or about 90 percent of the State (fig. 73), and forms the bedrock surface in about 20 percent of the State. In Wisconsin, the aquifer forms the bedrock surface in about 20 percent of the State along its eastern edge adjacent to Lake Michigan (fig. 73). Although Silurian and Devonian rocks are present throughout the Lower and part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, they form the bedrock surface only in the southeastern Upper Peninsula and the northern and the southeastern parts of the Lower Peninsula where they form an aquifer (fig. 73). The Silurian-Devonian aquifer generally is overlain by the surficial aquifer system where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface; in small areas, however, the aquifer crops out at the land surface.

Where the Silurian-Devonian aquifer is unconfined but is overlain by the surficial aquifer system, dissolution has resulted in extensive development of karst features, and the aquifer is susceptible to contamination from the land surface. Contaminated water can either move downward through the overlying glacial deposits or enter the Silurian-Devonian aquifer directly in outcrop areas. In confined areas, the aquifer is protected from contamination by the overlying confining units; where it is confined, the aquifer commonly contains saltwater with large dissolved-solids concentrations that increase with depth and distance downdip.

HYDROGEOLOGY

The average thickness of the carbonate rocks that compose most of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer is about 300 to 400 feet; the aquifer also contains some sandstone, shale, and evaporite beds. In Iowa, shale units in the Yellow Spring Group (fig. 74) confine the aquifer except where it forms the bedrock surface and where shale beds in the Lime Creek Formation form a confining unit within the aquifer. In Wisconsin, the aquifer consists largely of Silurian rocks and is unconfined

or partially confined by fine-grained sediments in the surficial aquifer system or by shale of the Devonian Kenwood Formation (fig. 75) which occurs only in a small area north of Milwaukee and adjacent to Lake Michigan. In Michigan, the Silurian-Devonian aquifer is unconfined where it forms the bedrock surface or is covered by the surficial aquifer system. The aquifer is confined as it dips beneath the Ellsworth and the Antrim Shales (fig. 76). The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is confined at its base by the Maquoketa confining unit (figs. 74, 75) in Iowa and Wisconsin and by equivalent shale and carbonate rocks of the Cataract and the Richmond Groups (fig. 76) in Michigan.

In the carbonate rocks of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer, water movement is primarily through secondary openings, such as joints, fractures, and bedding-plane openings, many of which have been enlarged by dissolution. In areas where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by the surficial aquifer system (fig. 77), especially in northeastern Iowa, the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and the southeastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, dissolution has resulted in extensive areas of karst features, such as sinkholes and caves (figs. 78, 79). Dissolution of evaporite beds in the Salina Group of Michigan also has caused collapse of overlying Silurian and Devonian rocks and has produced the Mackinac Breccia (figs. 76, 79) which has increased the permeability of the aquifer. In areas where the aquifer is overlain by thick confining units (fig. 77), which impede recharge to the aquifer, neither the formation of karst features nor the dissolution along joints, fractures, and bedding planes have occurred. In these areas, the aquifer tends to have minimal permeability.

The permeability of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer and the movement of water through the aquifer are greatest where the dissolution of the carbonate rocks is greatest; for example, transmissivity values for the aquifer in Iowa decrease from about 360,000 feet squared per day in northeastern Iowa, where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by the surficial aquifer system, to only about 1,200 feet squared per day in areas where the aquifer is confined. Well yields, which generally range from 100 to 500 gallons per minute, therefore, are more dependent on the degree of secondary porosity developed in the carbonate rocks rather than on the thickness of the rocks.

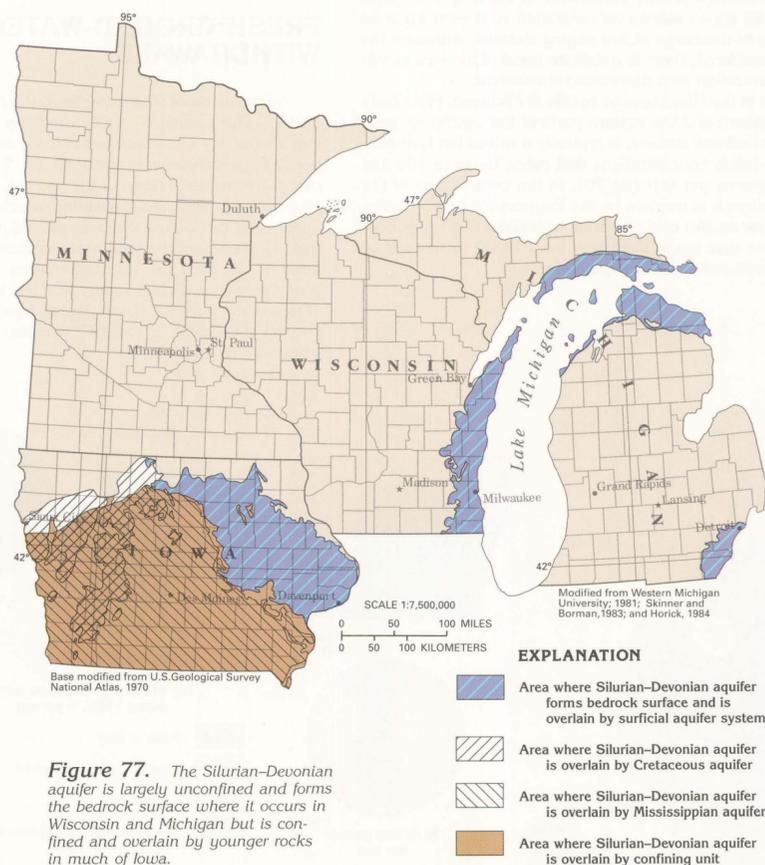


Figure 77. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer is largely unconfined and forms the bedrock surface where it occurs in Wisconsin and Michigan but is confined and overlain by younger rocks in much of Iowa.

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Devonian	Kenwood Formation	Shale	Confining unit
		Milwaukee Formation	Limestone and dolomite	Silurian-Devonian aquifer
		Thiensville Formation		
		Lake Church Formation		
		Waubakee Dolomite		
	Silurian	Racine Dolomite		
		Manistique Dolomite		
		Hendricks Formation		
		Byron Dolomite		
		Mayville Dolomite		
Ordoevician	Neda Formation	Dolomitic shale	Maquoketa confining unit	
	Maquoketa Shale			
	Galena Dolomite	Shaly dolomite		
	Decorah Formation			
	Platteville Formation			
Glenwood Shale				

Modified from Ostrom, 1967

Figure 75. The Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Wisconsin consists of limestone and dolomite.

The Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Iowa dips southwestward (figs. 80, 81) into the Forest City Basin. The base of the aquifer slopes from an elevation of about 1,000 feet above sea level in northeastern Iowa to about 1,500 feet below sea level in southwestern Iowa.

The Silurian-Devonian aquifer crops out along the shoreline of Lake Michigan in eastern Wisconsin, the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and along the shoreline of Lake Erie in the extreme southeastern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The aquifer dips and thickens radially into the Michigan Basin; thicknesses range from 1 to 200 feet at the outcrop where the rocks characteristically form an escarpment. The aquifer is 400 to 500 feet thick at its downdip extent. In Wisconsin, the base of the aquifer slopes eastward from an altitude of about 800 feet above sea level along parts of its western margin to slightly below sea level along parts of the shore of Lake Michigan. In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the base of the aquifer is at an altitude of about 800 feet above sea level and slopes southward into the Michigan Basin.

The Silurian part of the aquifer crops out and subcrops beneath glacial drift in the southeastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in a small area of the southeastern part of the Lower Peninsula (fig. 77). In the Upper Peninsula, the aquifer consists of carbonate rocks of the Niagara, the Salina, and the Bass Island Groups (fig. 76); the Niagara Group is an important aquifer in areas of outcrop and where overlain by drift. Generally, yields of water to wells 50 to 200 feet deep range up to 50 gallons per minute.

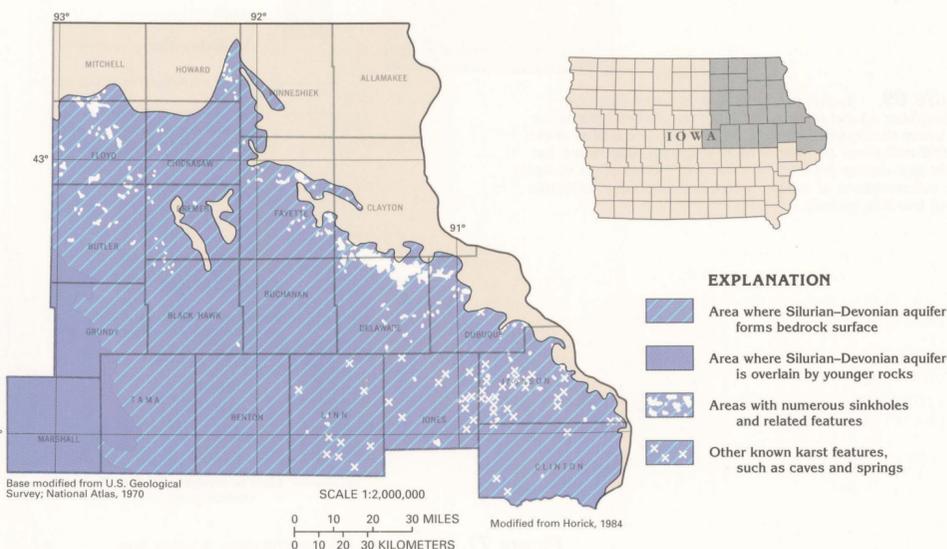


Figure 78. Numerous karst features have developed in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer where it forms the bedrock surface in northeastern Iowa.

Figure 79. Extensive karst-type solution features have developed in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer where it forms the bedrock surface in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in the southeastern part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

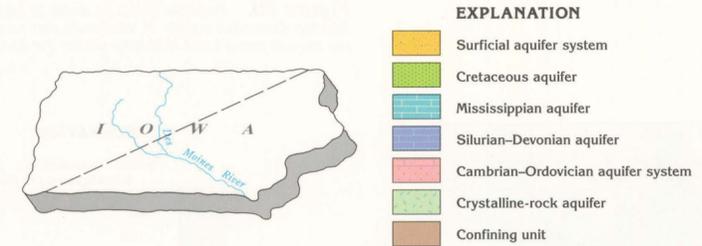
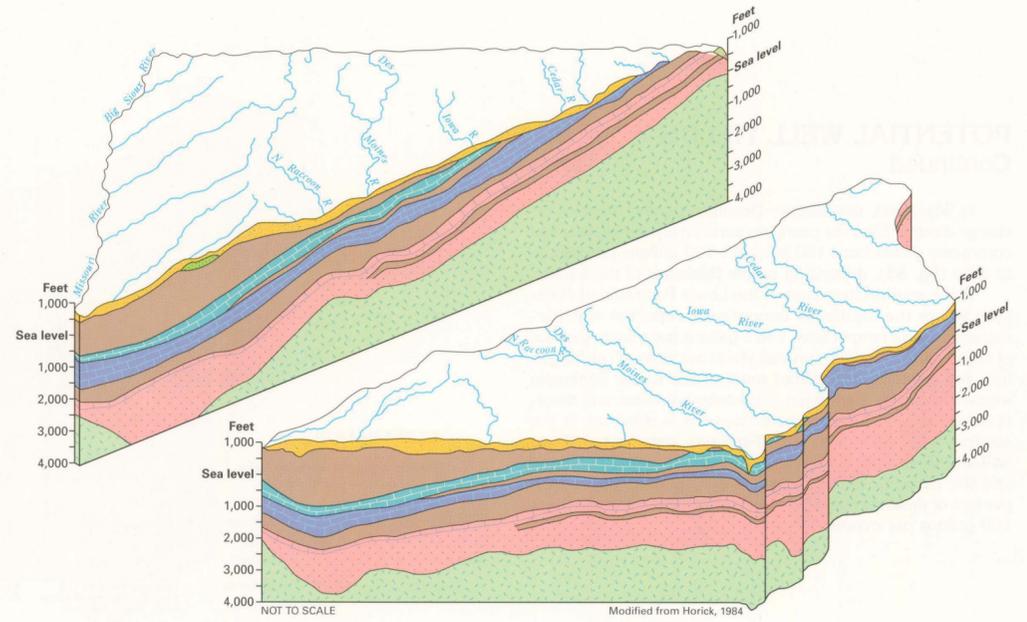
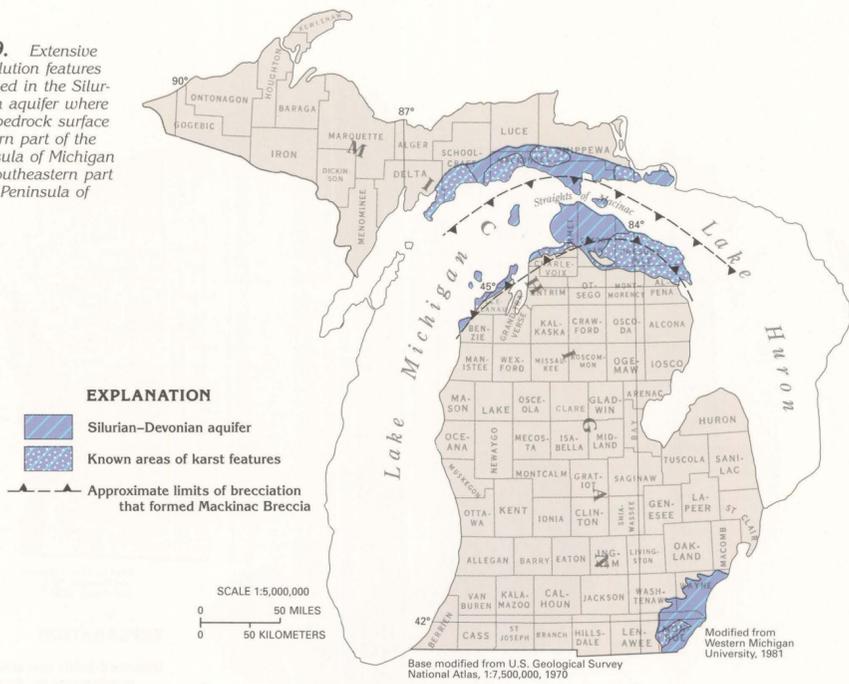


Figure 81. In Iowa, the base of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer and equivalent rocks dip from about 1,000 feet above sea level near the Iowa-Minnesota border southwestward into the Forest City Basin to about 1,500 feet below sea level. In Wisconsin, the base of the aquifer dips from about 800 feet above sea level eastward into the Michigan Basin to about sea level at the shore of Lake Michigan.

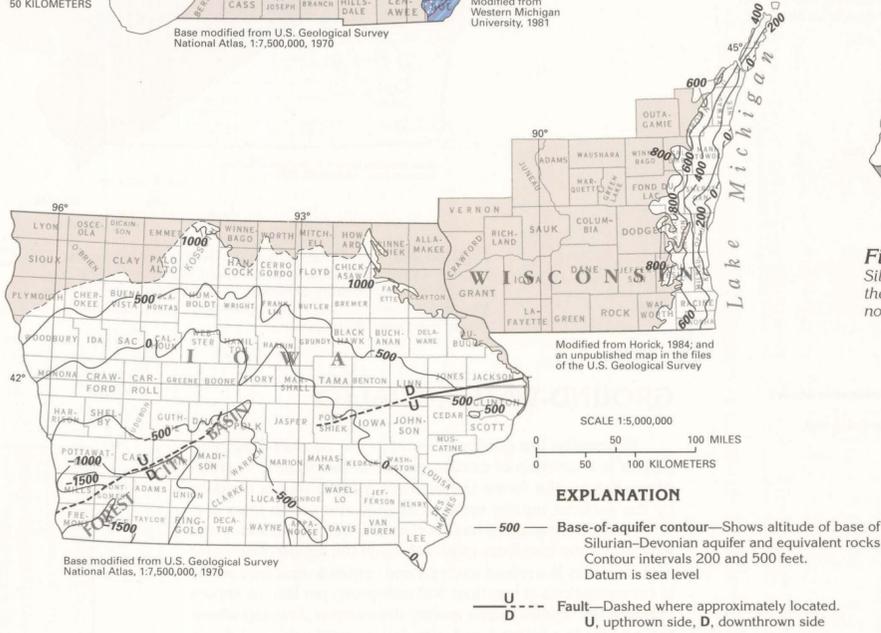


Figure 80. A generalized block diagram shows that the Silurian-Devonian aquifer dips southwestward in Iowa from the area where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface in the northeast to areas where it is deeply buried in the southwest.

HYDROGEOLOGY—Continued

Water movement in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Iowa and Wisconsin can be inferred from the potentiometric-surface map in figure 82. In Iowa, water moves regionally from the area of outcrop southeastward toward the Illinois Basin in south-central Illinois. Locally, water moves from upland areas of recharge along short flow paths to nearby rivers where groundwater discharge comprises a large part of the streamflow. Although information is not available on movement in the confined area of the aquifer, the water probably moves slowly south and southeastward to be discharged to major rivers in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.

Water movement in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Wisconsin (fig. 82) is regionally eastward toward Lake Michigan and the Michigan Basin. Locally, water moves along short flow paths toward streams where it is discharged. The aquifer is unconfined or only partially confined in Wisconsin.

Regional water movement in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Michigan is toward the center of the Michigan Basin. Local water movement is along short flow paths toward streams and the Straits of Mackinac where the water is discharged. Compared to where the aquifer is confined, movement is relatively rapid in the area where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is unconfined, especially where the permeability of the aquifer has been enhanced by the development of karst features.

POTENTIAL WELL YIELDS

Potential yields of wells with a depth of 100 to 300 feet completed in the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Iowa typically range from 100 to 500 gallons per minute in the area where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface, but only range from 20 to 50 gallons per minute in other areas. Well yields, therefore, are more dependant on the degree of secondary porosity developed in the carbonate rocks rather than on the thickness of the rocks.

A hydrograph for a 282-foot-deep well in a well field at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the area where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface, shows a water-level decline of only about 20 feet after the well field had produced about 1.88 million gallons per day from 1940 through 1980 (fig. 83). The hydrograph fluctuations indicate that the aquifer is recharged from precipitation moving quickly through the overlying surficial aquifer system. Conversely, a hydrograph for a 1,240-foot-deep well in a well field at Dayton, Iowa, in the confined part of the aquifer, shows water-level declines of about 65 feet from 1942 through 1981 after the well field was pumped at a rate of only about 75,000 gallons per day (fig. 84).

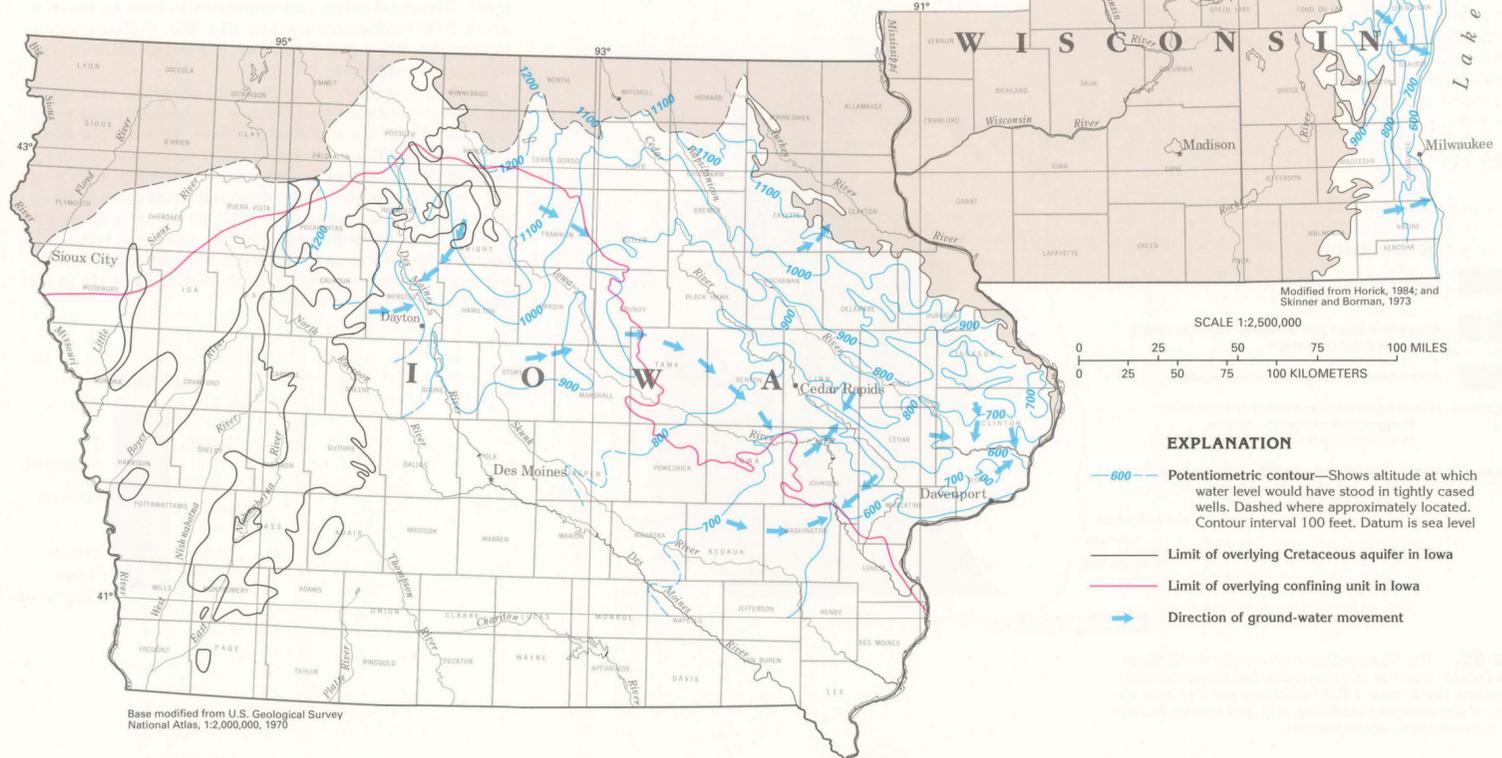


Figure 82. The configuration of the potentiometric surface of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer in Iowa and Wisconsin is irregular where the aquifer is generally unconfined and discharge is to southeastward-flowing streams. The configuration is smoother in Iowa where the aquifer is overlain by a confining unit.

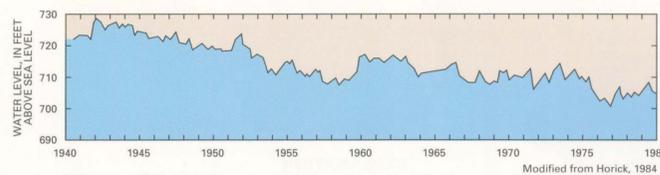


Figure 83. A hydrograph of a well completed in the unconfined part of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer at Cedar Rapids shows a slowly declining trend in water level due to ground-water withdrawals.

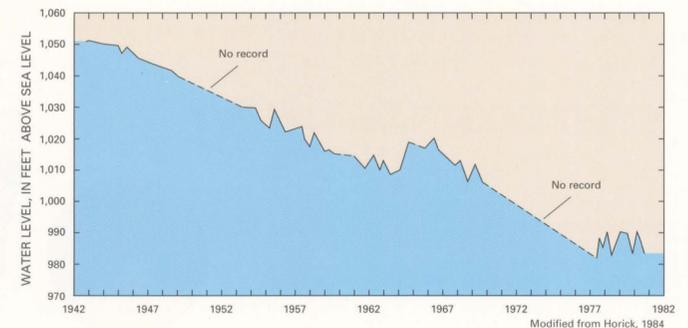


Figure 84. A hydrograph of a well completed in the confined part of the Silurian-Devonian aquifer at Dayton shows a relatively steady decline in water level with a total hydraulic-head loss of about 65 feet due to ground-water withdrawals.

POTENTIAL WELL YIELDS— Continued

In Wisconsin, the Silurian–Devonian aquifer receives recharge directly from the overlying surficial aquifer system and commonly yields from 100 to about 500 gallons per minute to wells (fig. 85), depending on the thickness of the aquifer.

In the southeastern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan where the aquifer is unconfined, reported specific-capacity values ranged from 1 to 9 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown, and maximum well yields are as much as 50 gallons per minute. Throughout most of the Lower Peninsula where the aquifer is confined, it contains saltwater, and development of the aquifer for water supplies is minimal. In the southeastern part of the Upper Peninsula, data for ten 10- to 349-foot-deep wells completed in the aquifer indicate that the specific capacity ranged from 0.1 to 9 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown and that maximum well yields are about 100 gallons per minute.

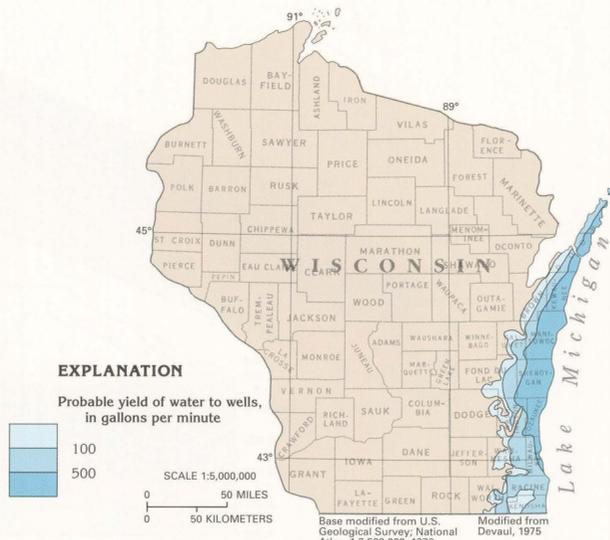


Figure 85. Probable yields of water to wells in the Silurian–Devonian aquifer in Wisconsin can exceed 500 gallons per minute along Lake Michigan where the aquifer is thickest.

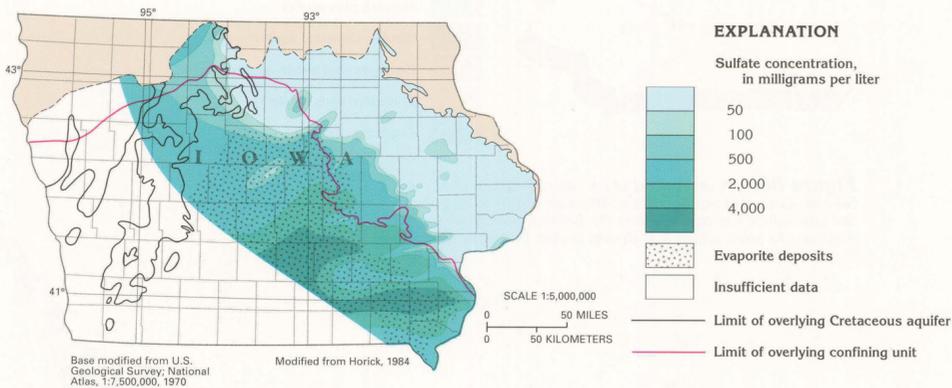


Figure 87. In southeastern Iowa, the occurrence of evaporite deposits and restricted ground-water circulation combine to produce sulfate concentrations of about 4,000 milligrams per liter in water in the Silurian–Devonian aquifer. In north-central and northeastern Iowa, sulfate concentrations generally are less than 250 milligrams per liter.

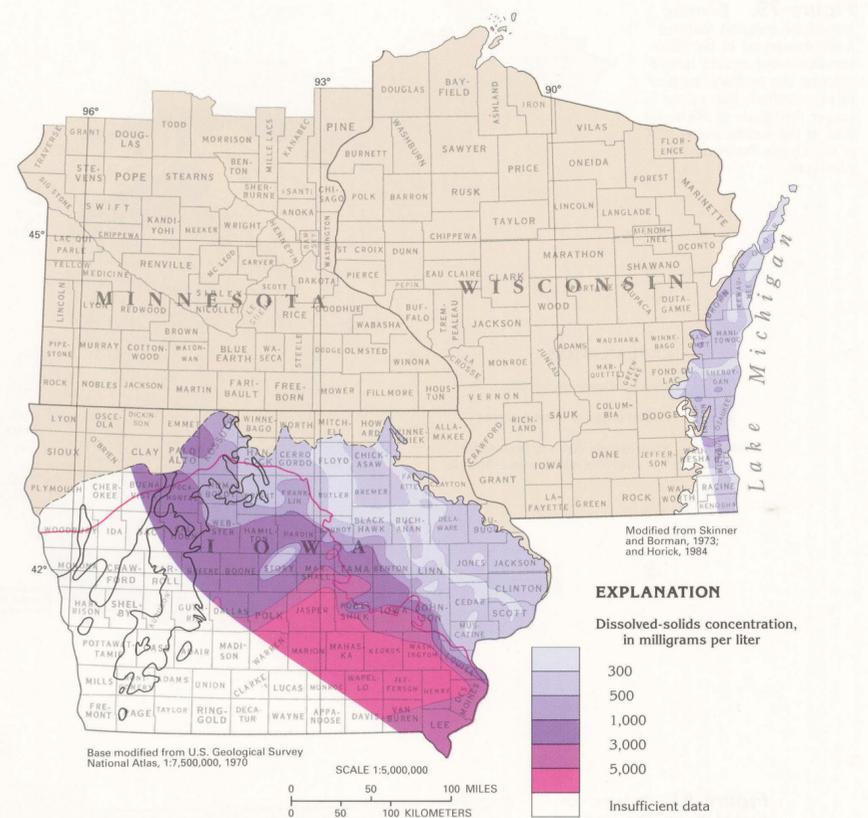


Figure 86. In Iowa and eastern Wisconsin where the Silurian–Devonian aquifer is unconfined, dissolved-solids concentrations are generally less than 500 milligrams per liter. In the confined area of Iowa, dissolved-solids concentrations increase markedly downgradient.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

Regionally, the quality of water in the Silurian–Devonian aquifer is a function of circulation within the aquifer. In areas where the aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by the surficial aquifer system, as in northeastern Iowa and Wisconsin, permeability has been enhanced by solution openings, and water circulates readily through the aquifer. The water in these areas is a mixed ion type and contains dissolved solids in concentrations of less than 500 milligrams per liter, as shown in figure 86. In Iowa, water quality deteriorates down dip where the aquifer is confined and circulation within the aquifer is sluggish, and recharge is primarily from downgradient movement. Dissolved-solids concentrations in Iowa increase to about 5,000 milligrams per liter (fig. 86). Sulfate concentrations (fig. 87) increase to thousands of milligrams per liter in these down dip areas.

Similar conditions occur in Michigan. In the area where the Silurian–Devonian aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by the surficial aquifer system, the water is a mixed ion type (fig. 88) with dissolved-solids concentrations in the range of 200 to 500 milligrams per liter. Down dip, at, or near the contact of overlying rocks, dissolved-solids concentrations increase to 1,000 milligrams per liter, as shown in figure 89. A short distance farther down dip, the water is a brine; dissolved-solids concentrations in excess of 160,000 milligrams per liter have been reported in water from these rocks in the center of the Michigan Basin.

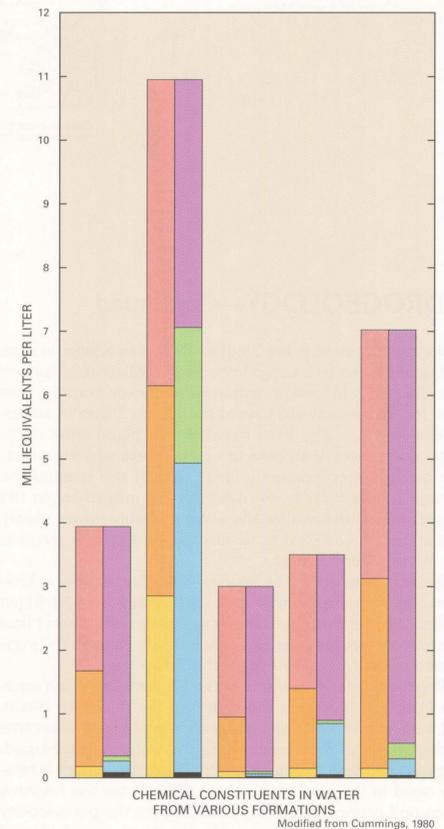


Figure 88. In Michigan, where the Silurian–Devonian aquifer forms the bedrock surface and is overlain by the surficial aquifer system, water is a mixed ion type.

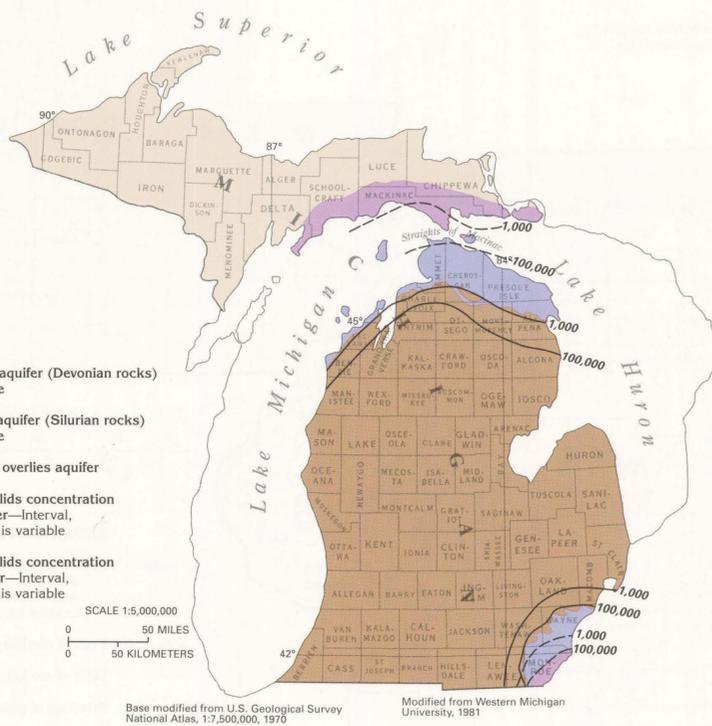


Figure 89. The Silurian–Devonian aquifer in Michigan contains potable water in outcrop areas, but dissolved-solids concentrations rise to over 1,000 milligrams per liter near the periphery of the overlying confining unit and rapidly increase to brine concentrations downgradient.

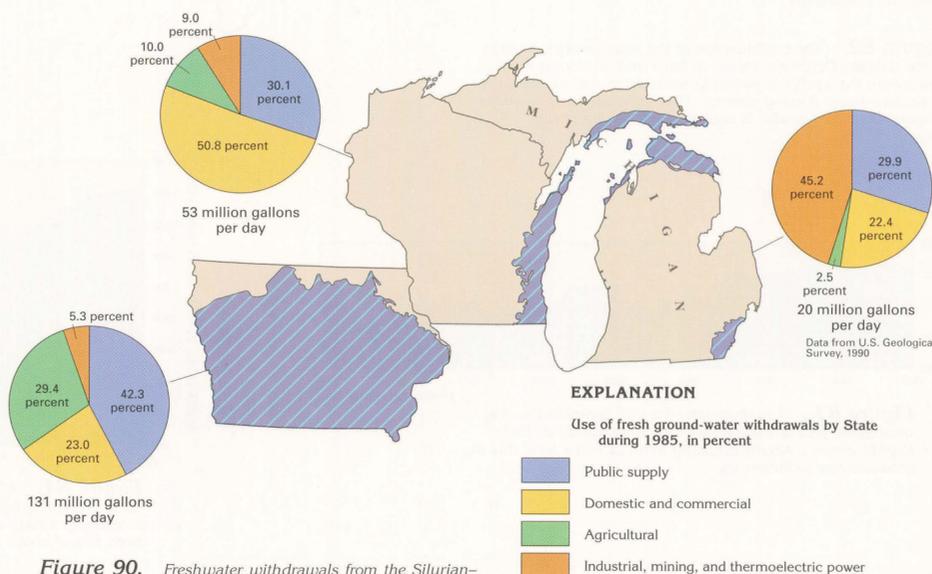


Figure 90. Freshwater withdrawals from the Silurian–Devonian aquifer were greatest in Iowa and least in Michigan during 1985. Principal uses generally varied markedly in the three States.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Silurian–Devonian aquifer in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan totaled 204 million gallons per day during 1985 (fig. 90). Public supply and domestic and commercial uses accounted for 67 percent of the total use in the three States, agricultural use (including irrigation) accounted for 21 percent, and industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power uses accounted for 12 percent.

INTRODUCTION

The upper carbonate aquifer is an important aquifer only in southeastern Minnesota and for a short distance into northeastern Iowa (fig. 91). It lies in the center of the Hollandale Embayment, which is a downwarped basin (fig. 92). As the name implies, the aquifer consists of carbonate rocks. The aquifer overlies an effective confining unit and is overlain and confined by the surficial aquifer system, except for a small area on the western edge that is overlain by Cretaceous rocks and along the eastern edge where the surficial aquifer system thins adjacent to the Driftless Area.

The upper carbonate aquifer consists of the upper part of a shale and carbonate rock sequence that forms the Maquoketa confining unit elsewhere in the segment. Fracturing and subsequent dissolution of a carbonate facies of the rock has produced the very productive upper carbonate aquifer.

EXPLANATION
 Upper carbonate aquifer—Dashed where extent is approximate

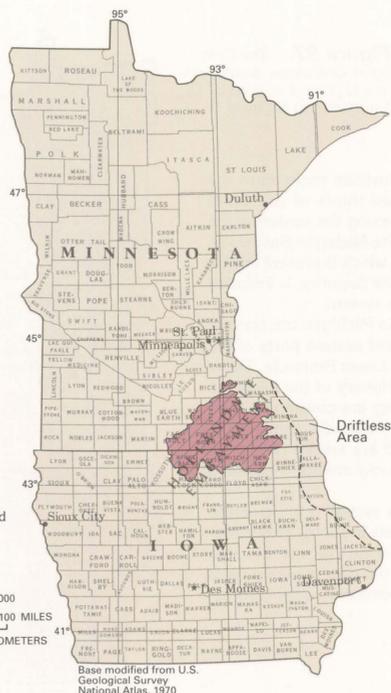


Figure 91. The upper carbonate aquifer is present in extreme southeastern Minnesota and extends a short distance into Iowa.

HYDROGEOLOGY

The upper carbonate aquifer consists of limestone, dolomite, and dolomitic limestone of the Devonian Cedar Valley Limestone and the Ordovician Maquoketa Shale, Dubuque Formation, and Galena Dolomite (fig. 93). The aquifer is underlain by shale, dolomitic limestone, and limestone of the Decorah Shale, the Platteville Formation, and the Glenwood Shale that form an effective confining unit (fig. 93).

The upper carbonate aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge along its periphery to about 650 feet in a small area in the center of the embayment along the Minnesota-Iowa border (fig. 94). The rocks are extensively fractured and jointed, and numerous solution-enlarged rock openings, including sinkholes, solution cavities, and caves, have made the rocks extremely porous, especially in areas where glacial deposits are thin or missing. The aquifer extends a short dis-

tance into Iowa. In Iowa, however, dissolution has been inhibited, and, therefore, little secondary permeability has developed in the rocks. This is because (1) the rocks are deeply buried, (2) there is a facies change from dolomite to shale in the Maquoketa Shale, and (3) the upper part of the Maquoketa contains shale units in Iowa that are not present in Minnesota. These rocks are not considered to be an aquifer in Iowa, and the southern limit of the aquifer has not been defined in the literature.

Regional ground-water flow in the upper carbonate aquifer generally is outward toward the periphery of the aquifer. The aquifer is recharged through the overlying surficial aquifer system that also acts as a leaky confining unit where it contains large quantities of clay and silt. Water movement is along short flow paths toward the many rivers that drain the area eastward to the Mississippi River, northwestward toward the Minnesota River, and southward into streams flowing into Iowa.

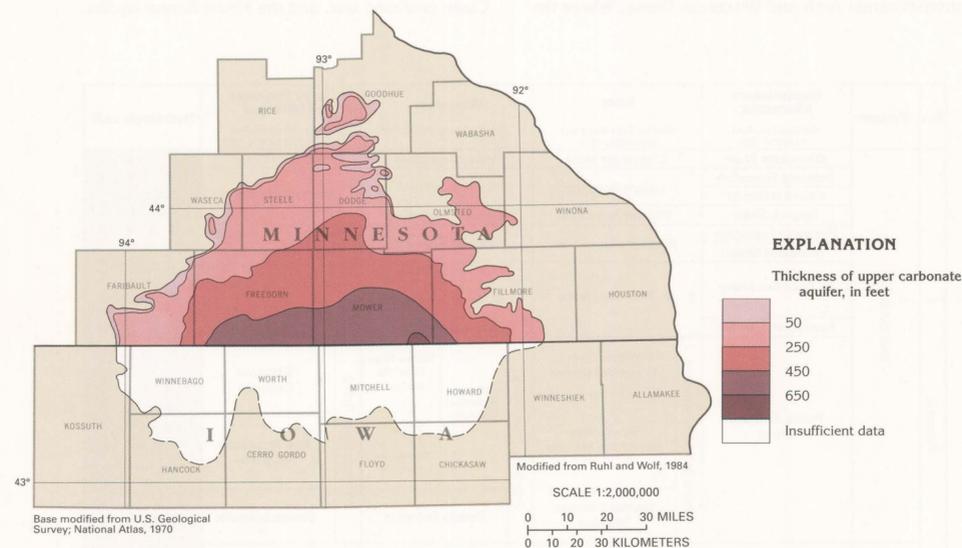


Figure 94. The upper carbonate aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge at its periphery to about 650 feet in a small area along the Minnesota-Iowa border.

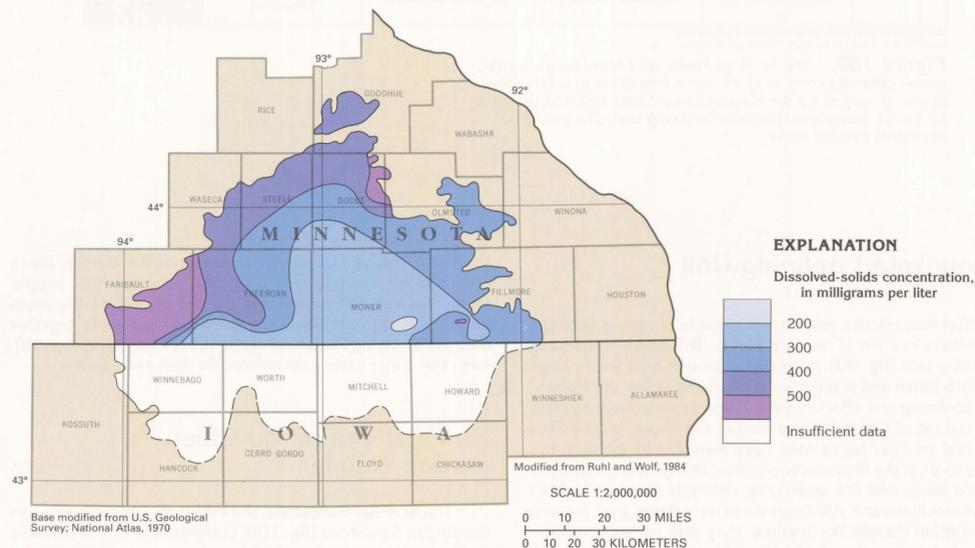


Figure 95. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the upper carbonate aquifer generally are less than 500 milligrams per liter.

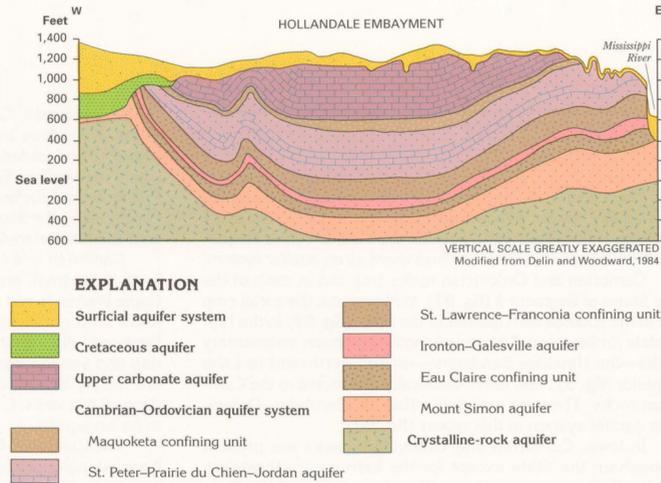


Figure 92. A generalized hydrogeologic section shows the relation of the upper carbonate aquifer to other aquifer systems and aquifers. The upper carbonate aquifer is thickest near the center of the Hollandale Embayment.

Upper carbonate aquifer

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Glacial and alluvial deposits	Sand and gravel	Surficial aquifer system
		Carliie Shale	Shale	Confining unit
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Codell Sandstone Member	Sandstone	Local aquifer
		Greenhorn Limestone	Limestone and shale	Confining unit
		Graneros Shale		
		Dakota Formation	Sandstone	Cretaceous aquifer
Paleozoic	Devonian	Cedar Valley Limestone	Limestone, dolomite, dolomitic limestone, and shale	Upper carbonate aquifer
		Maquoketa Shale		
		Dubuque Formation		
	Ordovician	Galena Dolomite	Shale, dolomitic limestone, and limestone	Confining unit
		Decorah Shale		
		Platteville Formation		
		Glenwood Shale		

Figure 93. The upper carbonate aquifer consists of the Devonian Cedar Valley Limestone and the Ordovician Maquoketa Shale, Dubuque Formation, and Galena Dolomite.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

Water in the upper carbonate aquifer is a mixed ion type. Reported dissolved-solids concentrations do not exceed 560 milligrams per liter (table 5), and generally range from 200 to 500 milligrams per liter (fig. 95). Values of properties and concentrations of constituents, which generally meet those recommended for use of the water as a public supply, are summarized in table 5.

The karstic nature of the upper carbonate aquifer and the thinness or absence of overlying glacial deposits along the eastern margin of the aquifer make this part of the aquifer susceptible to contamination from the land surface. The potential for contamination from the land surface in the central and the western parts of the aquifer is much less where thick till is present.

FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Fresh ground-water withdrawals from the upper carbonate aquifer in southeastern Minnesota totaled 20 million gallons per day during 1985 (fig. 96). Withdrawals for public supply, which is the principal use, accounted for about 8.9 million gallons per day. Withdrawals for agricultural purposes, which include irrigation, accounted for about 5.1 million gallons per day, and those for domestic and commercial purposes, for about 3.4 million gallons per day; the remaining 2.6 million gallons per day was used for industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power purposes.

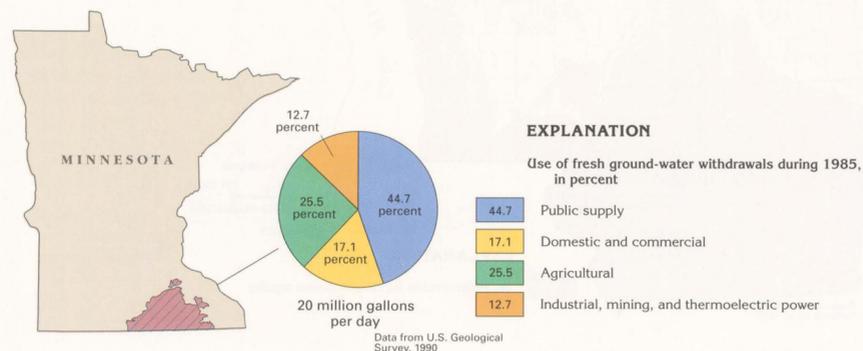


Figure 96. Fresh ground-water withdrawals, principally for public supply, from the upper carbonate aquifer in southeastern Minnesota totaled 20 million gallons per day during 1985.

Table 5. A summary of water-quality analyses indicates that water from the upper carbonate aquifer in southeastern Minnesota is a mixed-ion type

[Modified from Ruhl and Wolf, 1984. Concentrations in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified. <, less than; µg/L, micrograms per liter]

Property or constituent	Range	Average	Number of analyses
pH (standard units)	7.0 to 8.3	—	49
Hardness as CaCO ₃	130 to 420	290	52
Calcium (Ca)	27 to 110	75	50
Magnesium (Mg)	11 to 43	24	50
Sodium (Na)	2 to 143	19	50
Potassium (K)	0.6 to 16	2	52
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	225 to 560	341	41
Sulfate (SO ₄)	<1 to 70	24	50
Chloride (Cl)	.3 to 37	7.1	50
Fluoride (F)	.1 to 0.6	0.2	52
Silica (SiO ₂)	5.1 to 48	19	48
Dissolved solids	190 to 560	353	41
Nitrate (NO ₃)	.02 to 2.1	.58	11
Phosphorus (P)	<.01 to .30	.09	33
Iron (Fe) (µg/L)	20 to 5,300	1,500	25
Manganese (Mn) (µg/L)	<1 to 130	40	25

Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system

INTRODUCTION

The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system is a complex multiaquifer system with individual aquifers separated by leaky confining units. The several aquifers are capped by the Maquoketa confining unit, which confines them as an aquifer system.

Cambrian and Ordovician rocks crop out in each of the four States of Segment 9 (fig. 97). In Minnesota, the rocks crop out in the southeastern quarter of the State (fig. 97) in the Hollandale Embayment. The underlying Precambrian sedimentary rocks—the Hinckley Sandstone—extend northward to Lake Superior (fig. 97) and are hydraulically connected to the Cambrian rocks. They are included within the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in this report (fig. 98).

In Iowa, Cambrian and Ordovician rocks are present throughout the State except for the extreme northwestern corner; they crop out in the northeastern corner of the State and along the Mississippi River and are buried beneath Silurian and younger rocks as they dip southwestward into the Forest City Basin.

In Wisconsin, Cambrian and Ordovician rocks form the bedrock surface in the southern two-thirds of the State (fig. 97) and underlie Silurian rocks along the eastern edge where the section dips eastward into the Michigan Basin. The Precambrian Lake Superior Sandstone, which is present in Wisconsin along the southern shore of Lake Superior, is included with the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system.

Cambrian and Ordovician rocks in Michigan are present in all but a small area in the central and eastern parts of the Upper Peninsula and underlie the entire Lower Peninsula. These rocks crop out along the northern periphery of the Michigan Basin and dip into the basin where they are covered by Silurian and younger rocks. In the Lower Peninsula, these rocks are deeply buried, contain brine, and are known only from deep oil test wells. Consequently, the rocks are not considered to be an aquifer.

The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system is under stress from extensive ground-water withdrawals in southeastern Wisconsin, much of Iowa, and especially in the Chicago, Ill., area in the adjoining Segment 10. In all but the deeply buried parts of the aquifer system, the water is chemically suitable for all uses.

Figure 97. The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system is present in parts of all four States in Segment 9.



Geologic nomenclature	Southeastern Minnesota	Iowa	Wisconsin	Upper Peninsula of Michigan	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic nomenclature used in this chapter
Ordovician	Maquoketa Shale and Galena Dolomite	Confining unit	Maquoketa Shale	Confining unit	Shale and dolomite	Maquoketa confining unit
	Decorah-Platteville-Glenwood confining unit	Confining unit	Galena-Platteville aquifer	Trenton-Black River aquifer	Dolomite	
	St. Peter aquifer	St. Peter aquifer	St. Peter aquifer	Confining unit	Shaly dolomite	St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer
	Basal St. Peter confining unit	Confining unit	Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Prairie du Chien aquifer	Dolomite and sandstone	
Cambrian	Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Jordan aquifer	Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	Trempealeau aquifer	Dolomite and fine-grained sandstone	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit
	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit	Confining unit	St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit	Munising aquifer	Sandstone	
	Ironton-Galesville aquifer	Ironton-Galesville aquifer	Ironton-Galesville aquifer	Confining unit	Shaly sandstone	Eau Claire confining unit
	Eau Claire confining unit	Eau Claire confining unit	Eau Claire confining unit	Mount Simon aquifer	Sandstone	
Precambrian	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Jacobsville Sandstone	Sandstone	Jacobsville aquifer
				Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline-rock aquifer

Figure 98. The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system includes all or part of three separate aquifers in the four-State area. The gray area represents missing rocks.

Figure 99. The Maquoketa confining unit overlies permeable rocks of the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in Iowa, southeastern Minnesota, southern and eastern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

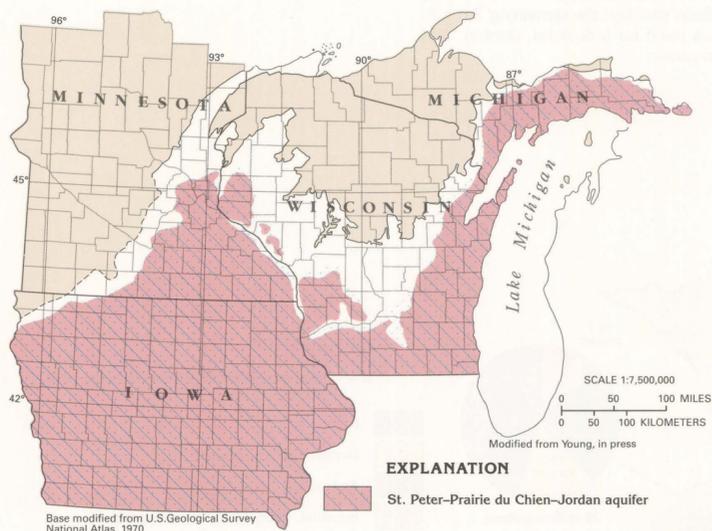
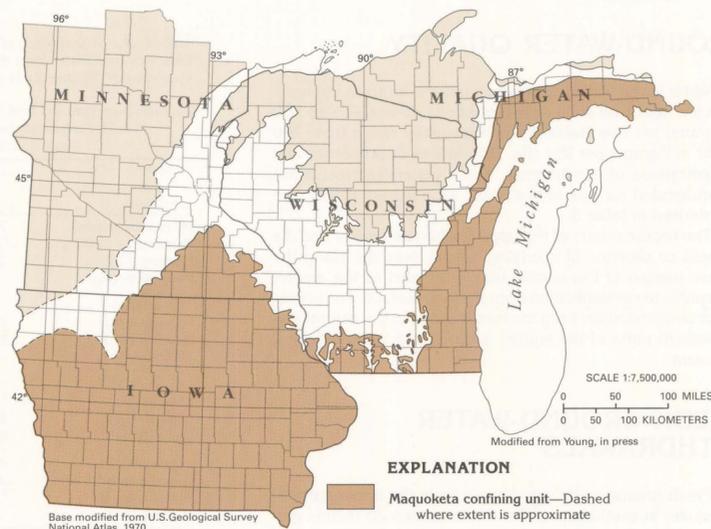


Figure 101. The St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer underlies much of Iowa, southeastern Minnesota, southwestern, southern, and eastern Wisconsin, and part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

HYDROGEOLOGIC UNITS

Cambrian and Ordovician rocks in parts of the four States (fig. 97) consist primarily of sandstone in the lower part and sandstone and shale interbedded with limestone or dolomite in the upper part. Based on differences in the lithology and the water-yielding character of the rock units, three principal aquifers, which are separated by confining units, are differentiated in the Cambrian and Ordovician section. These aquifers and confining units comprise the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system that is underlain by low-permeability crystalline rocks (fig. 98). The Maquoketa confining unit also is considered to be part of the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system; where this confining unit is present (fig. 99), it overlies and confines the entire system as a leaky artesian aquifer system. Each of the aquifers crops out at the bedrock surface, with progressively older rocks exposed in a generally northerly direction toward the Transcontinental Arch and Wisconsin Dome. Where the

aquifers crop out at the bedrock surface, they are hydraulically connected with the overlying surficial aquifer system. In places, fine-grained material in the glacial deposits forms local confining beds.

The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in Wisconsin is referred to as the sandstone aquifer (fig. 98). In Iowa, the system is separated by a significant confining unit into the upper Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer and the lower Dresbach aquifer (fig. 98). The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system in southeastern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is called the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer. The same hydrogeologic units or their equivalents comprise the aquifer system in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Hydrogeologic units that comprise the aquifer system are (in descending order) the Maquoketa confining unit, the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, the St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit, the Ironton-Galesville aquifer, the Eau Claire confining unit, and the Mount Simon aquifer.

Era	System	Southeastern Minnesota	Iowa	Wisconsin	Upper Peninsula of Michigan	Hydrologic unit	
Paleozoic	Ordovician	Maquoketa Shale	Maquoketa Shale	Maquoketa Shale	Richmond Group	Maquoketa confining unit	
		Dubuque Formation	Galena Dolomite	Galena Dolomite	Trenton Limestone		
		Galena Dolomite	Decorah Formation	Decorah Formation	Black River Formation		
		Decorah Shale	Platteville Formation	Platteville Formation	Glenwood Formation		
		Platteville Formation	Glenwood Shale	Glenwood Shale ¹			
		Glenwood Shale	St. Peter Sandstone	St. Peter Sandstone			
	Cambrian	Trempealeau Group	St. Peter Sandstone	St. Peter Sandstone	St. Peter Sandstone	Readstown Member	St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer
			Readstown Member	Willow River Dolomite Member	Willow River Dolomite Member	Shakopee Dolomite	
			Prairie du Chien Group	Root Valley Sandstone Member	New Richmond Sandstone Member	Prairie du Chien Group	
			Shakopee Dolomite	Oneota Dolomite Member	Oneota Dolomite	New Richmond Sandstone	
Jordan Sandstone	Jordan Sandstone	Jordan Sandstone	Upper part of Au Train Formation				
St. Lawrence Dolomite	St. Lawrence Dolomite	St. Lawrence Formation	Lower part of Au Train Formation ²				
Franconia Sandstone	Franconia Sandstone	Franconia Sandstone	Miner's Castle Sandstone ²				

¹Correlation uncertain; part of the Maquoketa confining unit.
²Considered an aquifer in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Figure 100. The St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, which generally consists of the same formations in each of the States, is capped by the Maquoketa confining unit and underlain by the St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit. The gray area represents missing rocks.

Maquoketa Confining Unit

The Maquoketa confining unit consists of various geologic formations in each of the four States. The entire Maquoketa confining unit (fig. 99) generally is present only where overlain by Silurian and younger rocks. In those areas, the Maquoketa confining unit effectively confines the underlying aquifers that consist of Cambrian and Ordovician rocks. Where Silurian and younger rocks have been removed by erosion, the upper shale of the Maquoketa confining unit generally has been eroded away, and the underlying dolomite formations form the bedrock surface. Although these formations are fractured and contain dissolution features, they also partially confine the underlying aquifers. In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the shaly Richmond Group forms a confining unit that is equivalent to the Maquoketa Shale (fig. 100).

Although part of the Maquoketa confining unit in the subsurface, the Galena Dolomite and the Decorah and the Platteville Formations, where they crop out in broad areas of Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa, form a local aquifer that is primarily used for domestic supply. Equivalent rocks in

the Upper Peninsula of Michigan comprise the Trenton-Black River aquifer, which also is used mostly for domestic supply. In southeastern Minnesota and a small part of northeastern Iowa, the Maquoketa Shale and the Galena Dolomite, together with the overlying Devonian Cedar Valley Limestone (fig. 98), form the upper carbonate aquifer, as discussed above.

St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan Aquifer

The St. Peter Sandstone, the Prairie du Chien Group, and the Jordan Sandstone (fig. 100) comprise the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer, which is an important source of water primarily in southeastern Minnesota; northern Iowa; southwestern, southern, and eastern Wisconsin; and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 101). The three rock units generally are hydraulically connected and function as one aquifer. Because of differences in thickness, grain size, or dissolution of the rocks, however, well yields and, therefore, the importance of the individual units, are areally variable.

St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan Aquifer—Continued

The top of the St. Peter Sandstone dips to the southwest from about 1,000 feet above sea level in Minnesota to more than 2,000 feet below sea level in southwestern Iowa (fig. 102). It is deeply buried under younger rocks in the southern half of Iowa. The St. Peter dips southward in southern Wisconsin toward the Illinois Basin and eastward in eastern Wisconsin into the Michigan Basin.

The St. Peter Sandstone is a fine- to medium-grained, friable, quartzose sandstone (fig. 103) that was deposited by a transgressive Ordovician sea. The sandstone was deposited on a deeply eroded bedrock surface and is in contact with underlying rocks that range in age from Precambrian to Ordovician (fig. 104). The most deeply eroded bedrock is in eastern Wisconsin where the St. Peter Sandstone was deposited on the Mount Simon Sandstone. The St. Peter locally rests on Precambrian rocks in south-central Wisconsin, but these areas are remnant highs on the eroded crystalline-rock surface that project upward through the Ironton and Galesville Sandstones, Eau Claire Formation, and Mount Simon Sandstone. The St. Peter was deposited on the eroded surface of the Jordan Sandstone and the St. Lawrence Formation in part of eastern Wisconsin and along the Wisconsin-Illinois border. In the remainder of its extent, the St. Peter lies unconformably on dolomite of the Prairie du Chien Group except for small areas where the dolomite might have been removed by erosion.

The St. Peter Sandstone is present in southeastern Minnesota, most of Iowa, and southwestern, southern, and eastern Wisconsin (fig. 105). The sandstone is about 330 feet thick in the Milwaukee area of eastern Wisconsin and about 400 feet thick in the southwestern part of Wisconsin, but generally is less than 200 feet thick in the remainder of the State. The St. Peter is generally 50 to 100 feet thick in Iowa and part of Minnesota (fig. 105).

Figure 103. The St. Peter Sandstone is a fine- to medium-grained, friable, quartzose sandstone.

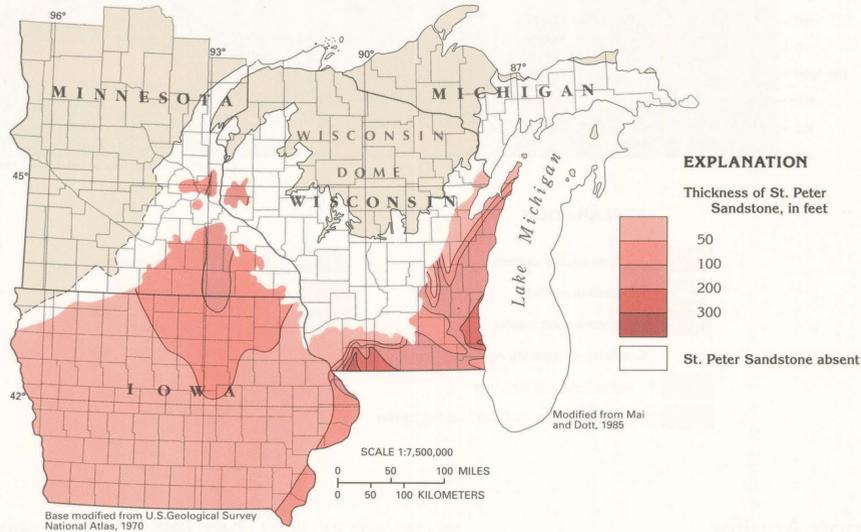


Figure 105. The thickness of the St. Peter Sandstone ranges from less than 50 feet in much of Iowa to about 400 feet in an area along the Wisconsin-Illinois border.

Figure 106. The Prairie du Chien Group is an unevenly bedded, algal dolomite.

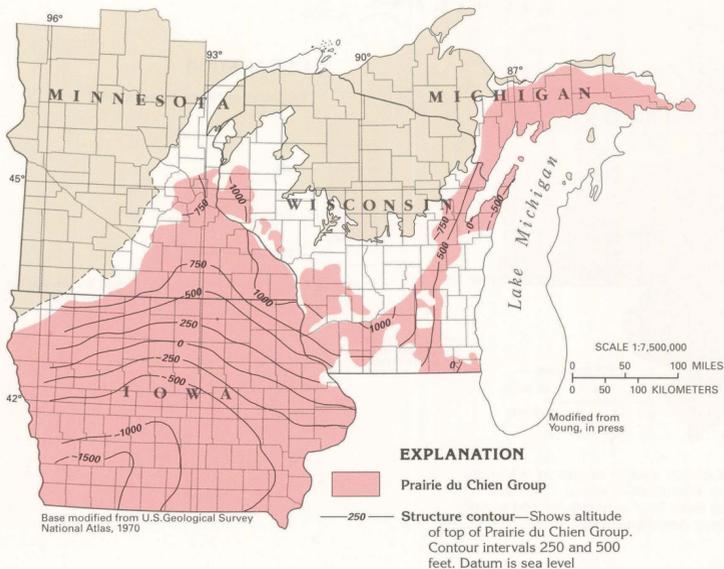


Figure 107. The top of the Prairie du Chien Group in the western part of Segment 9 dips to the southwest in Minnesota, most of Iowa, and southwestern Wisconsin and to the east in eastern Wisconsin.

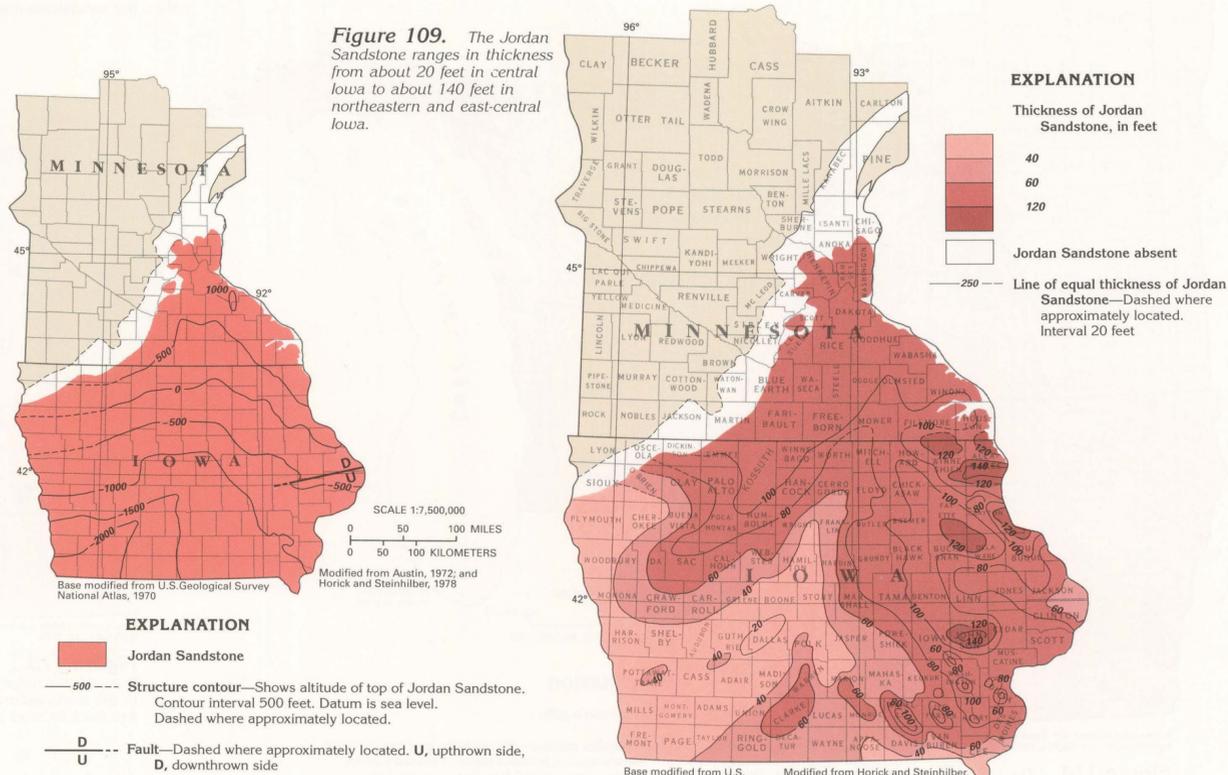


Figure 108. The top of the Jordan Sandstone dips southward from about 1,000 feet above sea level in southeastern Minnesota to about 1,500 feet below sea level in southwestern Iowa.

Figure 102. The top of the St. Peter Sandstone in the western part of Segment 9 dips to the southwest in Minnesota and Iowa, to the south in southern Wisconsin, and to the east in eastern Wisconsin.

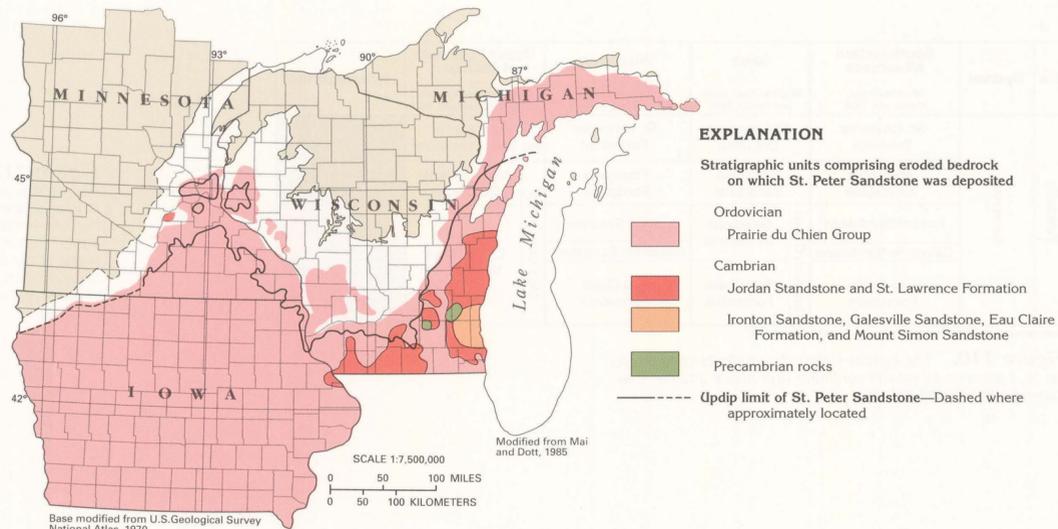
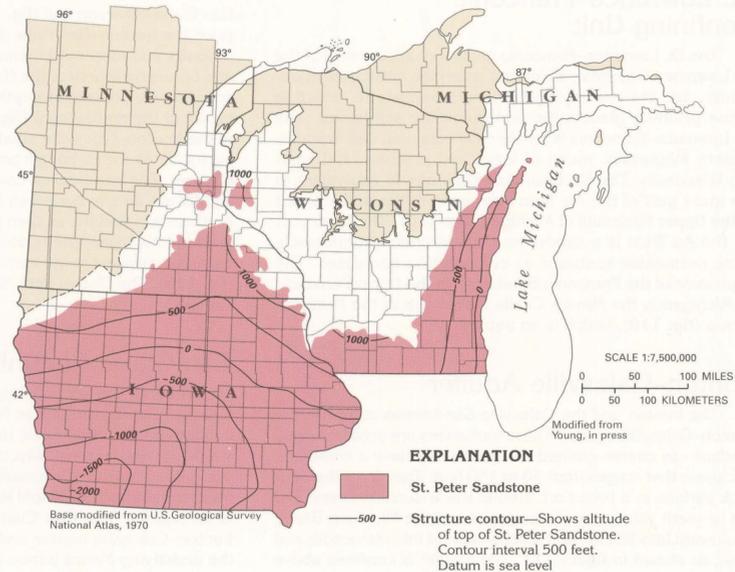


Figure 104. The St. Peter Sandstone was deposited on a deeply eroded bedrock surface. Stratigraphic units forming that surface range in age from Precambrian to Ordovician.

The Readstown Member of the St. Peter Sandstone is present at the base of the sandstone (fig. 100) in areas where the sandstone is thick. The Readstown is a conglomeratic shale, siltstone, and silty sandstone that was deposited on the sub-St. Peter erosional surface. The Readstown is about 80 feet thick in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area of Minnesota and probably has a similar thickness in southeastern Wisconsin. Because of its fine-grained texture, the Readstown functions as a confining unit locally, and hydraulically separates the St. Peter Sandstone from the underlying Prairie du Chien Group, the Jordan Sandstone, and older rocks.

The Prairie du Chien Group consists of upper and lower dolomite units with an intervening sandstone unit (fig. 100). The dolomite is unevenly bedded, as shown in figure 106. The Prairie du Chien Group thins from a maximum of about 500 feet thick (in Iowa) to a featheredge in northwestern Iowa on the western side of the Hollandale Embayment and in an arc surrounding the Wisconsin Dome. The group is missing in areas where the St. Peter Sandstone is thick in southern and eastern Wisconsin (fig. 104). In the Green Bay area, the entire St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer thickens eastward

from a featheredge to about 250 feet. The Prairie du Chien Group is present in much of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The top of the Prairie du Chien Group dips southward from about 1,000 feet above sea level in southeasternmost Minnesota to about 1,500 feet below sea level in southwestern Iowa (fig. 107). The group dips eastward and southward into the Michigan Basin on the eastern edge of Wisconsin (fig. 107) and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Jordan Sandstone is a well sorted, fine- to coarse-grained, quartzose sandstone. The top of the Jordan dips southward and southwestward from about 1,000 feet above sea level in southeastern Minnesota to about 2,000 feet below sea level in southwestern Iowa (fig. 108). The Jordan ranges from about 60 to 140 feet in thickness in Minnesota and northeastern Iowa; in southwestern Iowa, it is about 20 to 60 feet thick, as shown in figure 109. In western Wisconsin, the Jordan is as much as 80 feet thick, but it is only about 30 feet thick around the flanks of the Wisconsin Dome. The Jordan Sandstone is equivalent to the upper part of the Au Train Formation, which is also a sandstone, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 100).

St. Lawrence–Franconia Confining Unit

The St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit consists of the St. Lawrence Dolomite, which is a dolomitic siltstone and dolomite, and the underlying Franconia Sandstone, which is a fine-grained, glauconitic and dolomitic sandstone. The St. Lawrence–Franconia is an effective confining unit in southeastern Minnesota, much of Iowa, and southern and eastern Wisconsin. The St. Lawrence Dolomite is equivalent to the lower part of the Au Train Formation in the western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 110). The lower part of the Au Train is a sandstone that becomes progressively more permeable eastward as cementation decreases. The equivalent of the Franconia Sandstone in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is the Miner's Castle Sandstone of the Munising Group (fig. 110), which is an aquifer.

Ironton–Galesville Aquifer

The Ironton and the Galesville Sandstones comprise the Ironton–Galesville aquifer. These formations are predominantly medium- to coarse-grained sandstone and have a combined thickness that ranges from 50 to 150 feet. They form the bedrock surface in a broad arc around the Wisconsin Dome and dip beneath younger rocks eastward into the Michigan Basin, southward into Illinois, and southwestward into Minnesota and Iowa, as shown in figure 111. The aquifer is confined above

by the St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit and below by the Eau Claire confining unit (fig. 110). The sandstones that comprise the Ironton–Galesville aquifer subcrop beneath glacial deposits and crop out in stream valleys in central Wisconsin and on the periphery of the Hollandale Embayment of Minnesota but are present at depths of 1,000 feet or more in the center of the embayment (fig. 112). In Iowa, the sandstones of the Ironton–Galesville aquifer grade westward into carbonate rocks. As the carbonate content increases, permeability decreases. The sandstones comprising the Ironton–Galesville aquifer are deeply buried and contain saltwater in all but the northeastern and the eastern parts of Iowa. In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the upper part of the Chapel Rock Sandstone is equivalent to the Ironton and the Galesville Sandstones (fig. 110). The Chapel Rock Sandstone is part of the Munising Group.

Eau Claire Confining Unit

The Eau Claire confining unit consists of silty and shaly, fine-grained sandstone that forms an effective confining unit in southeastern Minnesota, throughout Iowa, and in western, southern, and eastern Wisconsin. The confining unit is not present in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where equivalent rocks are part of the Chapel Rock Sandstone (fig. 110), which is an aquifer. The Eau Claire confining unit underlies the Ironton–Galesville aquifer and hydraulically separates it from the underlying Mount Simon aquifer.

Era	System	Southeastern Minnesota	Iowa	Wisconsin	Upper Peninsula of Michigan	Hydrologic unit
Paleozoic	Cambrian	Modified from Woodward, 1986	Modified from Cagle and Heintz, 1978	Modified from Ostrom, 1967	Modified from Western Michigan University, 1981	St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit
		St. Lawrence Dolomite	St. Lawrence Dolomite	St. Lawrence Formation	Lower part of Au Train Formation ¹	
		Franconia Sandstone	Franconia Sandstone	Franconia Sandstone	Miner's Castle Sandstone ¹	
		Ironton Sandstone	Galesville Sandstone	Ironton Sandstone	Chapel Rock Sandstone ¹	
		Galesville Sandstone		Galesville Sandstone		
Eau Claire Formation	Dresbach Group	Eau Claire Formation	Munising Group ¹			
						Ironton–Galesville aquifer
						Eau Claire confining unit

¹Considered an aquifer in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Figure 110. The Ironton–Galesville aquifer is confined by the St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit above and the Eau Claire confining unit below.

Era	System	Southeastern Minnesota	Iowa	Wisconsin	Upper Peninsula of Michigan	Hydrologic unit
Paleozoic	Cambrian	Modified from Woodward, 1986	Modified from Cagle and Heintz, 1978	Modified from Ostrom, 1967	Modified from Western Michigan University, 1981	Eau Claire confining unit
		Eau Claire Formation	Dresbach Group	Eau Claire Formation	Eau Claire Formation	
Middle Proterozoic	Precambrian	Mount Simon Sandstone	Crystalline rocks	Mount Simon Sandstone	Crystalline rocks	Mount Simon aquifer
		Hinckley Sandstone		Bayfield Group		
		Sedimentary rocks ²	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	Crystalline rocks	
		Crystalline rocks				Crystalline-rock aquifer ³

¹Considered an aquifer in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

²Hydraulic characteristics are poorly known, includes the Fond du Lac and Solar Church Formations of Morey and others (1982).

³Although considered a low-yielding aquifer where it forms the bedrock surface, crystalline rock tends to act as a confining unit to the more permeable overlying Mount Simon aquifer.

Figure 113. The Mount Simon aquifer in Minnesota is confined above by the Eau Claire confining unit and below by the Fond du Lac Formation and crystalline rocks. The gray area represents missing rocks.

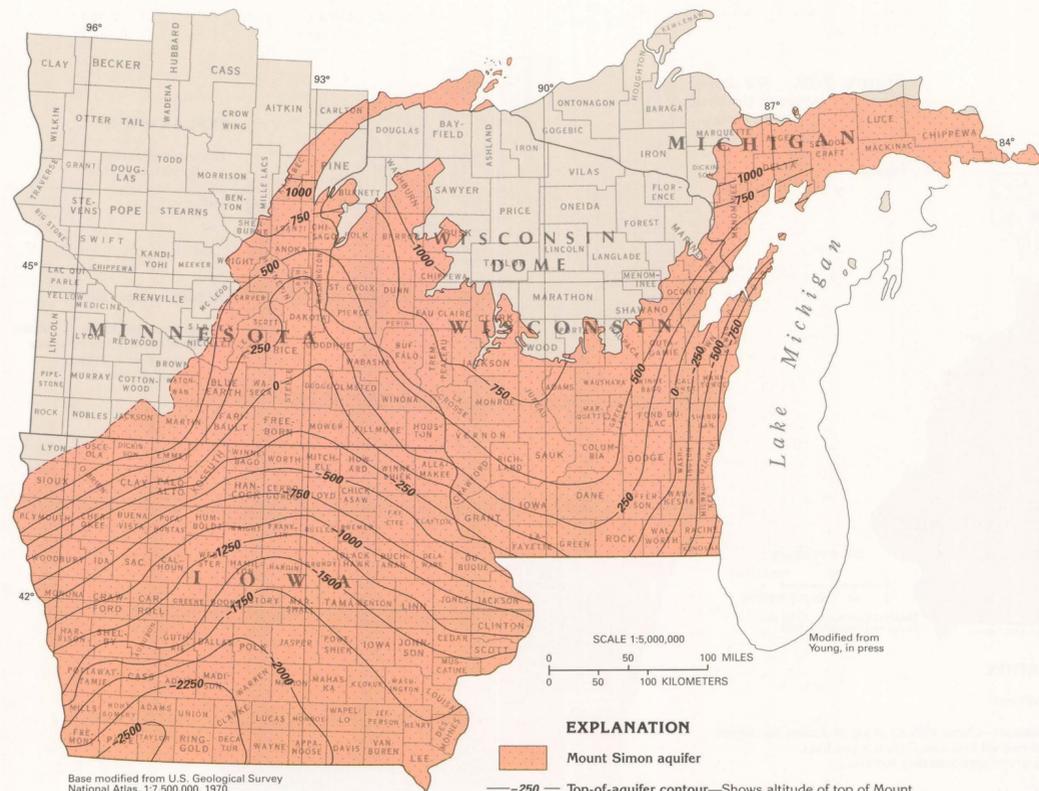


Figure 114. The top of the Mount Simon aquifer dips southwestward, southward, and eastward from the Wisconsin Dome.

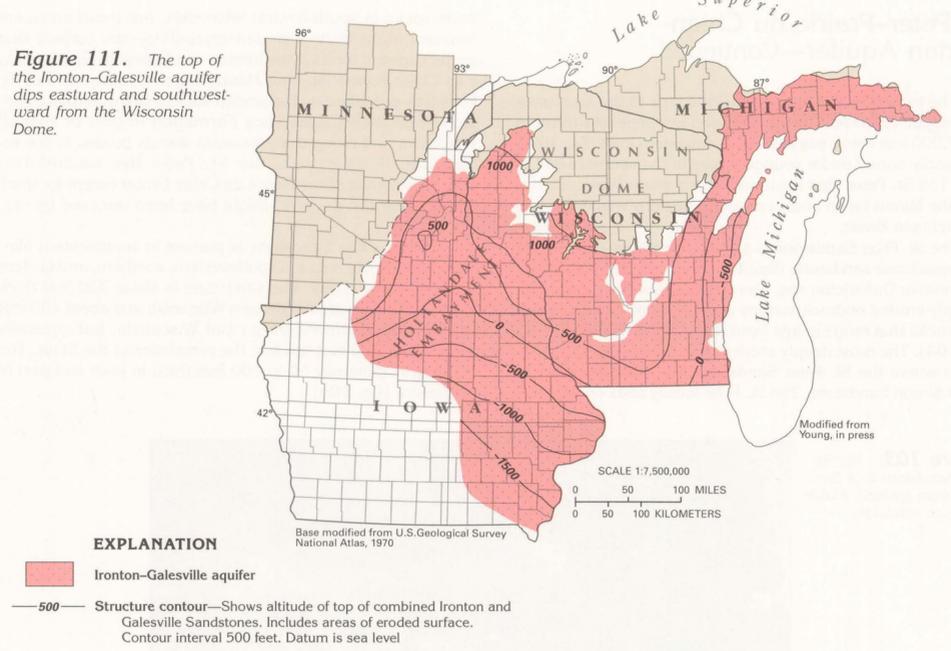


Figure 111. The top of the Ironton–Galesville aquifer dips eastward and southwestward from the Wisconsin Dome.

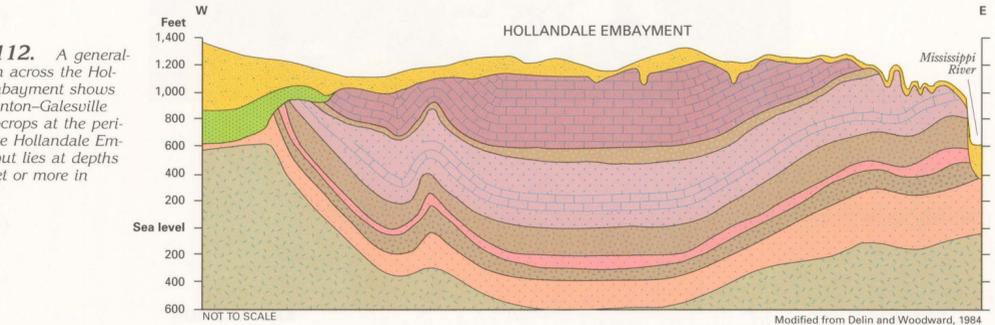
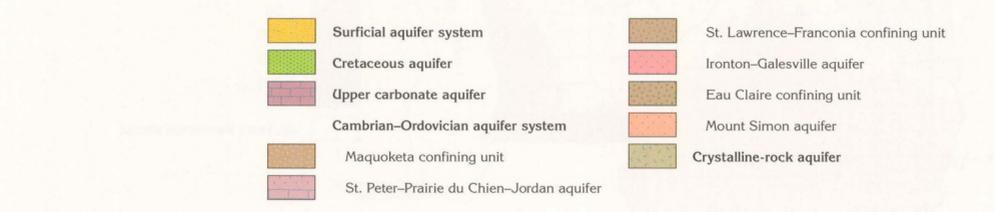


Figure 112. A generalized section across the Hollandale Embayment shows that the Ironton–Galesville aquifer subcrops at the periphery of the Hollandale Embayment, but lies at depths of 1,000 feet or more in the center.



Mount Simon Aquifer

The Mount Simon aquifer, which is the lowermost aquifer of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, consists of the coarse- to fine-grained Mount Simon Sandstone and the permeable Hinckley Sandstone in Minnesota and the Bayfield Group in Wisconsin. The aquifer is extensively used in the southeastern quarter of Minnesota. In Iowa, the Mount Simon aquifer, the Eau Claire confining unit, and the Ironton–Galesville aquifer comprise the Dresbach aquifer, which contains saltwater in all but the extreme eastern part of the State and is not extensively used. In Wisconsin, the Mount Simon aquifer underlies the southern two-thirds of the State and has the broadest distribution of any of the aquifers in the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system. Wells penetrating the Mount Simon aquifer in Wisconsin generally are open to overlying Cambrian–Ordovician aquifers. These aquifers are collectively called the sandstone aquifer. In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the lower part of the Chapel Rock Sandstone is equivalent to the Mount Simon aquifer (fig. 113).

Structure contours representing the top of the Mount Simon aquifer are shown in figure 114. The top of the aquifer slopes southward and southwestward from southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin where it is 1,000 feet or more above sea level to southwestern Iowa where it is about 2,500 feet below sea level. From eastern Wisconsin, the aquifer slopes eastward into the Michigan Basin and southward into the Illinois Basin (fig. 114). The Mount Simon aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge along its northern periphery to about 1,500 feet in southeastern Wisconsin, as shown in figure 115. The aquifer increases in thickness toward the Michigan and Illinois Basins. The aquifer generally is 100 to 250 feet thick in the principal area of use in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The aquifer is confined above by the Eau Claire confining unit and overlies less-permeable rocks of Precambrian age (fig. 113).

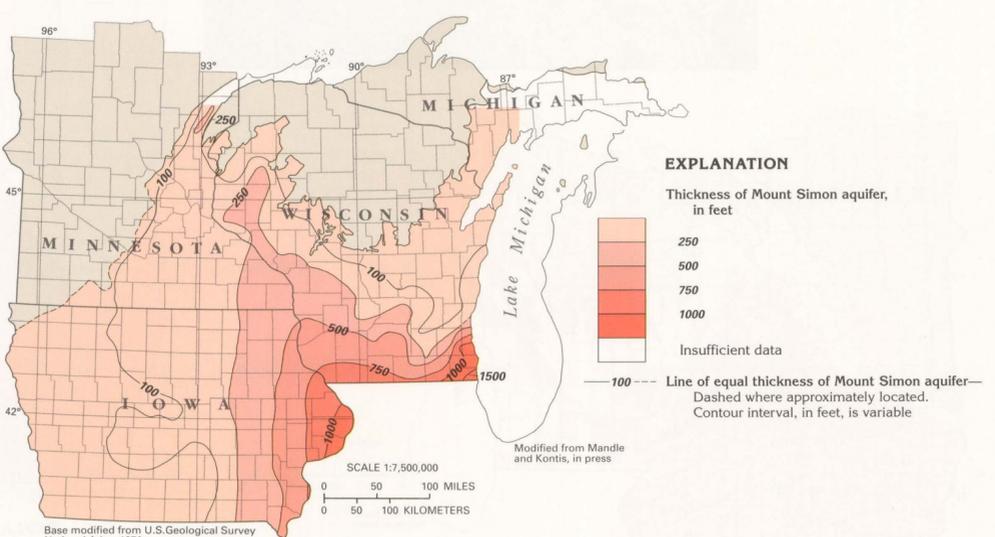
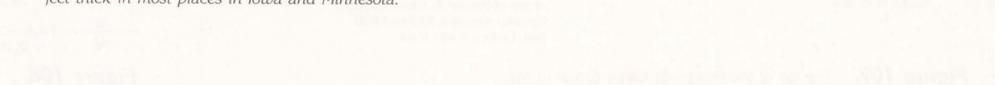


Figure 115. The Mount Simon aquifer ranges in thickness from a featheredge in northern Wisconsin to about 1,500 feet in the southeastern part of the State and generally is 100 to 500 feet thick in most places in Iowa and Minnesota.



GROUND-WATER FLOW

Ground-water flow in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer is part of the regional flow in the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, which is a leaky artesian system. Although individual aquifers in the system are separated by confining units that may be much less permeable than the aquifers, some water moves vertically through these confining units. Hydraulic heads in the individual aquifers of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system generally are at successively lower altitudes, which indicates that water moves vertically downward into the aquifer system in most areas.

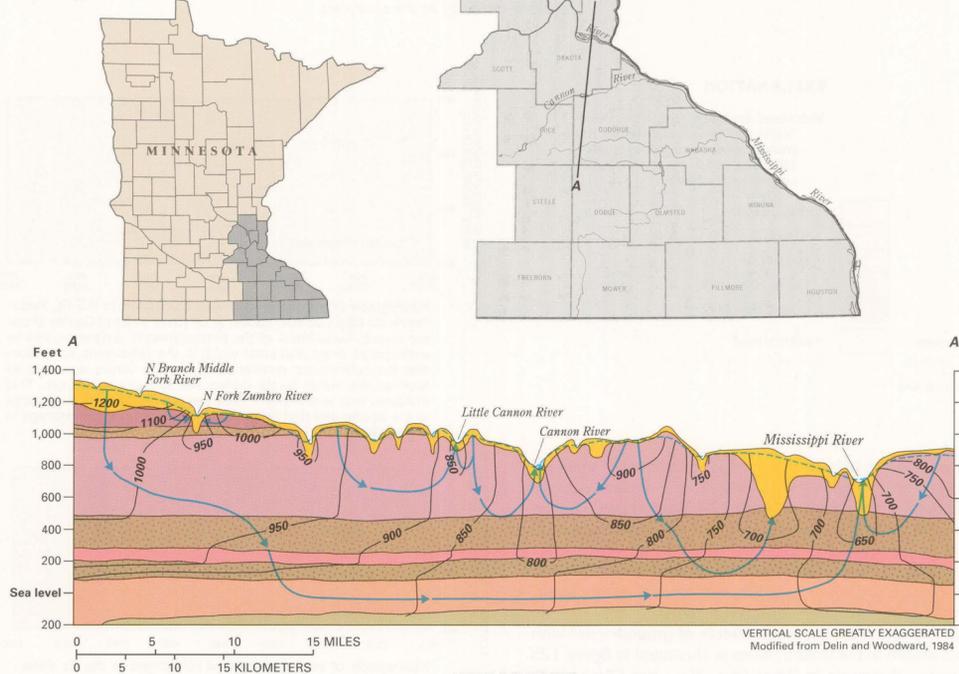
In Iowa, southeastern Minnesota, and southwestern Wisconsin, the regional direction of ground-water flow in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer is southeastward toward the Illinois Basin in south-central Illinois (fig. 116). In eastern Wisconsin, the flow is eastward toward Lake Michigan. Water also moves toward centers of pumping, such as Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wis., and Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minn., and toward regional discharge areas, such as the Mississippi, the Wisconsin, and the Rock Rivers (fig. 116).

Ground-water flow in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, as in all the aquifers in the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, is downward in interstream areas where the aquifer crops out or is thinly confined; for example, in Minnesota, some of the water from precipitation moves downward into the surficial aquifer system and then moves down the vertical hydraulic gradient to recharge the upper carbonate aquifer, as shown in figure 117. In the upper carbonate aquifer, some of the water moves laterally along a horizontal gradient to local streams where it moves upward and is discharged to the streams. However, some of the water continues to percolate downward through successively deeper confining units and aquifers. Water that reaches each aquifer moves laterally, generally long distances (especially in the lower aquifers), and eventually discharges upward to regional drains, such as the Mississippi River (fig. 117).

Water in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, as in all the aquifers of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, generally is under artesian (confined) conditions. In southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, however, in the deeply entrenched drainage system of the Mississippi River, where glacial deposits are thin or missing, the aquifer crops out and contains water under water-table (unconfined) conditions. The potentiometric surface of the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer in that area indicates ground water moves toward and discharges to local streams.

Water in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, as in all the aquifers of the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system, generally is under artesian (confined) conditions. In southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa, however, in the deeply entrenched drainage system of the Mississippi River, where glacial deposits are thin or missing, the aquifer crops out and contains water under water-table (unconfined) conditions. The potentiometric surface of the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer in that area indicates ground water moves toward and discharges to local streams.

Figure 117. Water moves downward through glacial deposits and the vertically stacked aquifers and leaky confining units, and then horizontally toward major drainages where it is discharged.



EXPLANATION

- Surficial aquifer system
- Upper carbonate aquifer
- Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system**
- Maquoketa confining unit
- St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer
- St. Lawrence–Franconia confining unit
- Ironton–Galesville aquifer
- Eau Claire confining unit
- Mount Simon aquifer
- Crystalline-rock aquifer
- Water table
- 800 Line of equal hydraulic potential—Interval 50 and 100 feet
- Direction of ground-water movement
- A—A' Line of hydrogeologic section

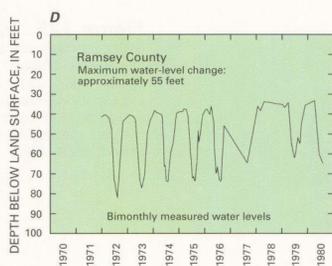
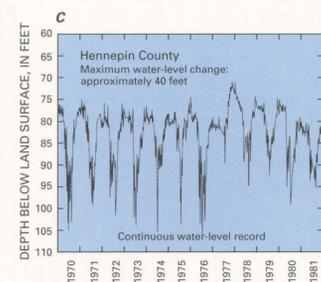
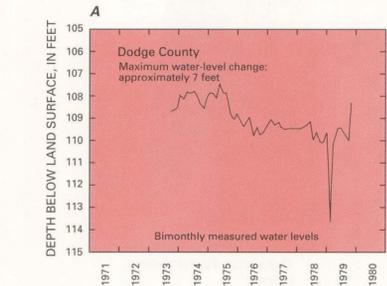
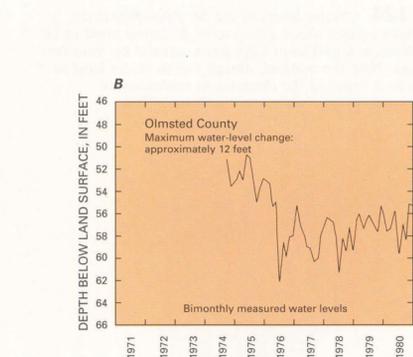


Figure 119. In southeastern Minnesota, where the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer is more effectively confined and has moderate transmissivity, ground-water withdrawals cause a sustained lowering of water levels. In the Minneapolis–St. Paul area, where the aquifer is less effectively confined and has substantial transmissivity, water levels that are drawn down during the summer fully recover after withdrawals cease.

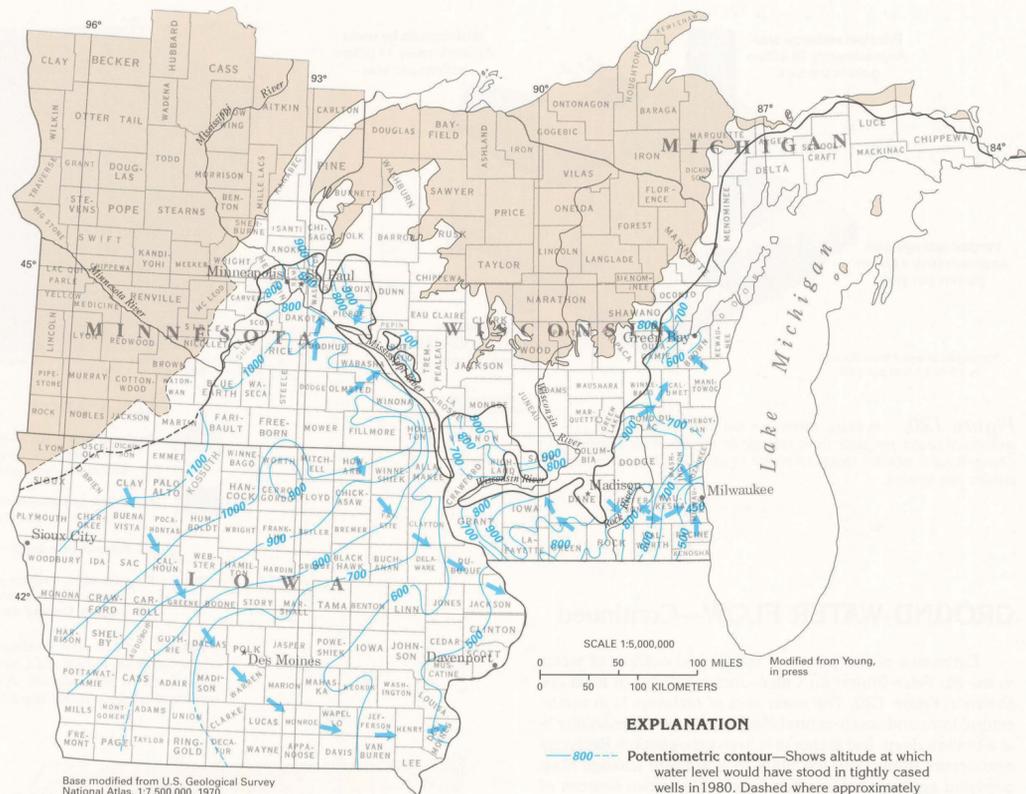


Figure 116. Regionally, water in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer flows southeastward toward the Illinois Basin and eastward into the Michigan Basin. Locally, water in the aquifer moves toward centers of pumping at Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minn., Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wis., and toward major drains including the Mississippi, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Rock Rivers.

EXPLANATION

- 800 Potentiometric contour—Shows altitude at which water level would have stood in tightly cased wells in 1980. Dashed where approximately located. Contour interval, in feet, is variable. Datum is sea level
- Limit of St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer—Dashed where approximately located
- Direction of ground-water movement

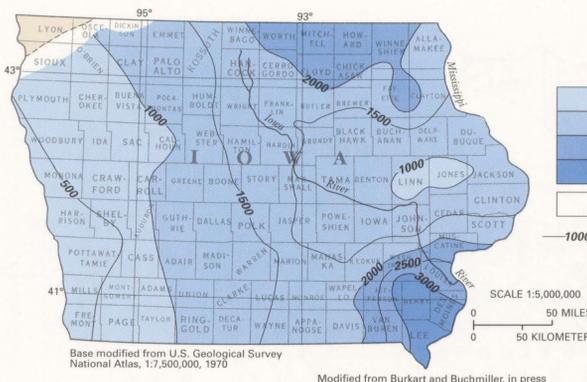
Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1:7,500,000, 1970

Transmissivity values for the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, based on aquifer-test results and estimates from specific-capacity data, are variable, as shown in table 6. The maximum transmissivity and hydraulic-conductivity values for the aquifer are in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area and in southeastern Minnesota, eastern Iowa, and extreme southwestern Wisconsin, primarily due to the larger hydraulic-conductivity values of the Prairie du Chien Group and Jordan Sandstone. Generalized ranges of transmissivity values for the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer in Iowa are shown in figure 118. Values decrease from about 3,000 feet squared per day in the southeast to about 500 feet squared per day in the west. This pattern coincides with increased cementation of the sandstone and greater depth of burial of the aquifer to the southwest.

Hydrographs of water levels in wells completed in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area and in southwestern Minnesota are shown in figure 119 and illustrate fluctuations of ground-water levels

largely in response to withdrawals. Hydrographs in figures 119A and 119B represent water levels in southeastern Minnesota where the aquifer is deeply buried and where withdrawals are moderate. Under these conditions, water levels decline and recover as much as 7 to 12 feet seasonally due to larger water demands during the summer months than during the winter months. The overall trend of the hydrographs, however, is downward, indicating that recharge is not adequate to replace the water withdrawn.

Three hydrographs of wells completed in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer (figs. 119C–E) near Minneapolis–St. Paul, where the aquifer transmissivities are high, show drawdowns of as much as 100 feet in response to large withdrawals during the summer. Water levels in each of the wells, however, recover completely during the winter when withdrawals are reduced. The overall trend of seasonal high water levels is level or upward. Recharge in this area is, therefore, equal to or greater than withdrawal.



EXPLANATION

- Transmissivity of St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, in feet squared per day
- 1000
- 2000
- 3000
- Aquifer absent
- 1000 Line of equal transmissivity—Interval 500 feet squared per day

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1:7,500,000, 1970

Modified from Burkart and Buchmiller, in press

Table 6. The transmissivity of the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer ranges from less than 100 to 33,000 feet squared per day based on aquifer and specific-capacity tests

[Modified from Young, in press. —, no data available]					
Well or site location	Number of tests	Geologic unit (nomenclature of this report)	Transmissivity, T (feet squared per day)	Horizontal hydraulic conductivity, K (feet per day)	Storage coefficient, S (dimensionless)
Southeastern Minn.	—	St. Peter Sandstone	300–4,900	3.3–33	1.0×10^{-2} – 1.0×10^{-3}
Minneapolis–St. Paul area, Minn.	1	ditto	5,000	—	—
Dousman, village well 2, Waukesha County, Wis.	1	ditto	350	0.16–26.9	—
Fond du Lac, city test wells, Fond du Lac County, Wis.	3	ditto	500	3.5	—
Greenfield High School, Milwaukee County, Wis.	1	ditto	180–420	3.6–5.2	—
Minneapolis–St. Paul area, Minn.	3	Prairie du Chien Group	42–90	.93–1.4	—
West St. Paul recharge test, Dakota County, Minn.	1	ditto	760	3.7	—
Fennimore, city well 4, Grant County, Wis.	1	ditto	6,300	—	1.1×10^{-2}
Minneapolis–St. Paul area, Minn.	12	Jordan Sandstone	4,500	30	2.0×10^{-2} – 2.0×10^{-4}
Geological Survey test well, Red Mound School, Vernon County, Wis.	3	ditto	4,900	26	—
Lake Geneva, village well 1, Walworth County, Wis.	1	ditto	1,900–10,700	4.6–166	4.9×10^{-2} – 1.2×10^{-4}
Southeastern Minn.	1	St. Peter Sandstone, Prairie du Chien Group	670	8.0	—
Minneapolis–St. Paul area, Minn.	11	Prairie du Chien Group, Jordan Sandstone	900–33,000	5.3–67	1.0×10^{-6} – 1.0×10^{-3}
Iowa	—	ditto	5,000–26,500	—	4.8×10^{-2} – 6.5×10^{-4}
Mason City, city well 14, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa	1	ditto	500–5,000	—	—
Marion, city well 3, Lincoln County, Iowa	1	ditto	4,500	—	—
			5,100	—	—

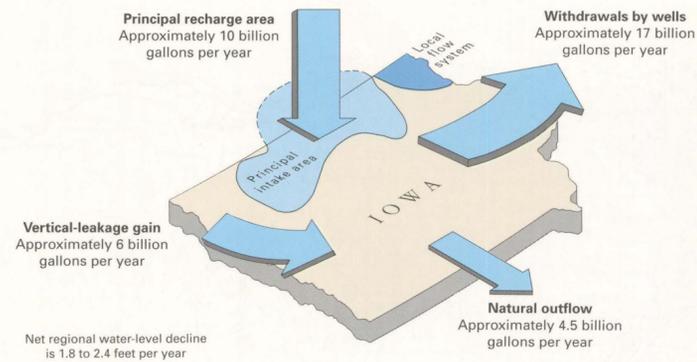


Figure 120. In Iowa, there is a net loss of 5.5 billion gallons of water per year from storage in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer when recharge to and discharge from the aquifer are totaled.

GROUND-WATER FLOW—Continued

Estimates of the principal inflow and outflow of water to the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa are shown in figure 120. The main area of recharge is in north-central Iowa and south-central Minnesota where the aquifer is at a shallow depth and recharge is from precipitation. Recharge also occurs throughout the State as downward leakage from overlying aquifers and confining units. These two sources of recharge equal an estimated 16 billion gallons per year. Aquifer discharge is by two principal means; downgradient movement and withdrawal by wells. The sum of these two methods of discharge from the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer is estimated to be 21.5 billion gallons per year. Comparison of recharge to and discharge from the aquifer indicates a deficit of 5.5 billion gallons per year, which is balanced by a decrease in the volume of water stored in the aquifer. The decrease is reflected by a decline in water levels. Water-level declines in the aquifer from prepumping water levels (dating back to 1896) through 1975 are shown in figures 121-123.

A map of the potentiometric surface of the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa prior to any substantial withdrawals from the aquifer is shown in figure 121. The potentiometric surface of the aquifer in 1974-75 is shown in figure 122. The regional water-level decline, or the difference between these two potentiometric surfaces, is mapped in figure 123. Water-level declines of about 150 feet occurred throughout a substantial part of the aquifer in Iowa in the 78 to 79 years of ground-water withdrawals. Water-level declines of 50 feet or more from predevelopment levels have occurred in an estimated 75 percent of the area of the aquifer.



Figure 126. A computer-generated potentiometric surface of the Ironton-Galesville aquifer in 1980 indicates ground-water flow was to the Mississippi, the Minnesota, and the Wisconsin Rivers in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, and to pumping centers in eastern Iowa, eastern Wisconsin, and northern Illinois.

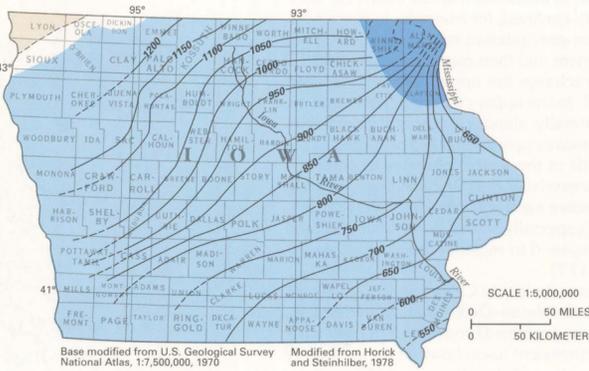


Figure 121. The predevelopment potentiometric surface of the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa, which dates back to 1896, shows that water moved generally south-eastward under natural conditions.

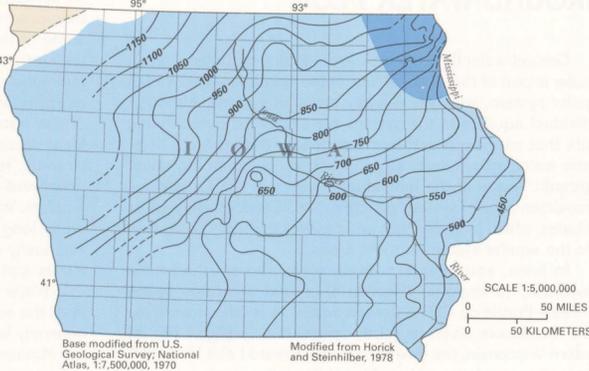


Figure 122. The 1974-75 potentiometric surface of the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa shows the effects of pumping centers. Overall movement, however, remained generally to the southeast.

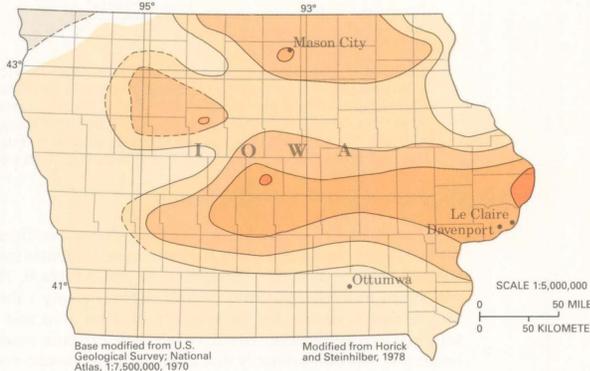


Figure 123. A decline of the potentiometric surface of the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa has occurred Statewide. Since the first wells drilled to the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer began withdrawing water, the potentiometric surface in Iowa has declined about 50 to 150 feet regionally and as much as 175 to 200 feet at the major pumping centers.

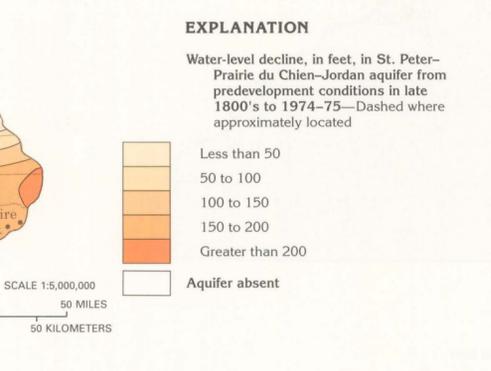


Figure 124. Water levels in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer show a long-term declining trend at Le Claire, Ottumwa, and Mason City, Iowa, caused by industrial withdrawals. Note the marked, abrupt rise in water level in the 1970's as a result of the decrease in withdrawals.

Hydrographs of both short and long duration of water levels in wells completed in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Iowa are shown in figure 124. Each shows a declining trend in water levels, and the longest-term hydrograph (for the well at Ottumwa, fig. 124) indicates a steady decline that totals about 130 feet. The rapid rise of water levels following a decrease in withdrawals is indicated by each of the hydrographs.

One of the most dramatic effects of ground-water withdrawals known in the United States is illustrated in figure 125. Industrial withdrawals in Milwaukee, Wis., and Chicago, Ill., from the composite Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system (including the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan, the Ironton-Galesville, and the Mount Simon aquifers) have drawn down water levels about 375 feet in Milwaukee and about 800 feet in Chicago during the 117-year period, 1864-1980. Water movement in the aquifers has been changed from the natural flow direction (eastward to Lake Michigan) to radial flow toward the centers of withdrawals in each city. A ground-water divide from which water flows northward to Milwaukee and southward to Chicago is present just south of Milwaukee (fig. 125).

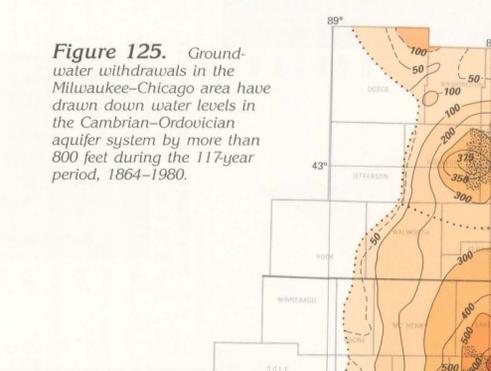
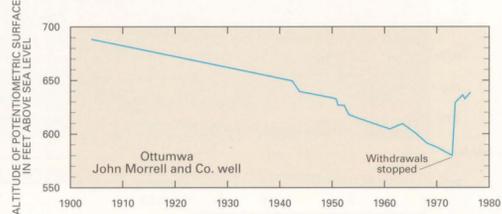


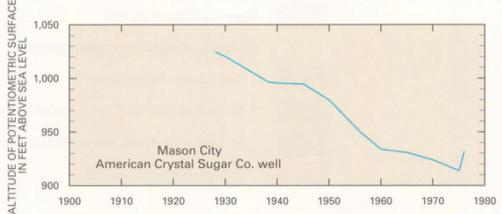
Figure 125. Ground-water withdrawals in the Milwaukee-Chicago area have drawn down water levels in the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system by more than 800 feet during the 117-year period, 1864-1980.



Hydrograph of an abandoned well completed in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer at Le Claire in Scott County showing annual fluctuations of the potentiometric surface caused by withdrawals from industrial wells in the Davenport area. Note that the subsequent recoveries during the winter were not as high as the water levels during the spring of the year. This indicates that withdrawals from the aquifer exceeded recharge to the aquifer and that water was being removed from storage in the aquifer.



Hydrograph of an industrial well completed in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer at Ottumwa in Wapello County showing a continual decline in water level resulting from industrial withdrawals until 1973 when withdrawals stopped, resulting in a marked, abrupt rise in water level.



Hydrograph of an industrial well completed in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer at Mason City in Cerro Gordo County showing the effects of industrial and municipal withdrawals on water levels. The marked, abrupt rise in water level during 1975-76 was attributed to the discontinuing of withdrawals from the aquifer by a major industrial user.

Figure 124. Water levels in the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer show a long-term declining trend at Le Claire, Ottumwa, and Mason City, Iowa, caused by industrial withdrawals. Note the marked, abrupt rise in water level in the 1970's as a result of the decrease in withdrawals.

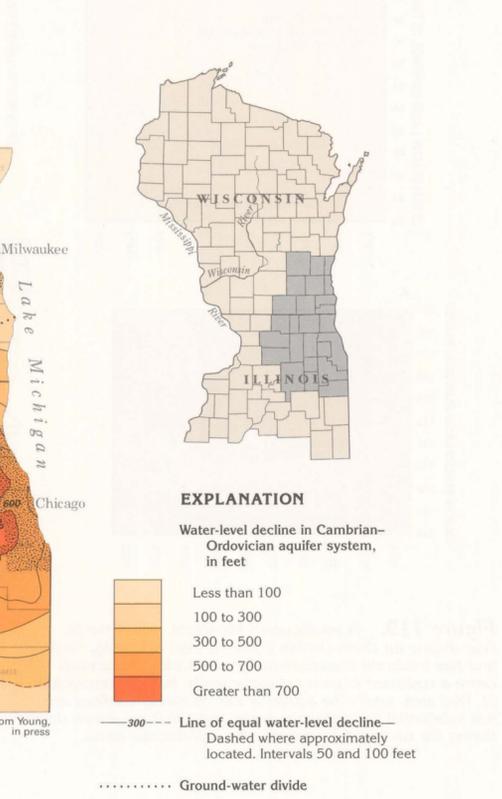


Figure 125. Ground-water withdrawals in the Milwaukee-Chicago area have drawn down water levels in the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system by more than 800 feet during the 117-year period, 1864-1980.

Table 7. Transmissivity values from several Cambrian-Ordovician aquifers determined by packer tests in a test well in northern Illinois indicate that the Ironton-Galesville aquifer has the highest transmissivity

[Modified from Nicholas and others, 1987]			
Hydrogeologic unit	Packed interval (feet below land surface)	Transmissivity (feet squared per day)	Hydraulic conductivity (feet per day)
St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	909-1,046	250	1.8
Ironton-Galesville aquifer	1,143-1,252	1,100	10
Upper part of the Mount Simon aquifer	1,372-1,932	840	1.5

Table 8. A comparison of water-level altitudes in several Cambrian-Ordovician aquifers penetrated by a test well in the area of the Milwaukee-Chicago cone of depression indicates that the Ironton-Galesville aquifer has the lowest water level of the several aquifers

[Modified from Nicholas and others, 1987]			
Hydrogeologic unit	Water-level altitude (feet above sea level)		
	1981 Dec. 9	1982 Feb. 5	1982 Oct. 22
St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer	373.38	371.37	368.06
Ironton-Galesville aquifer	369.03	367.50	364.54
Upper part of the Mount Simon aquifer	376.39	373.77	371.37
Lower part of the Mount Simon aquifer	424.04	425.04	422.25

Figure 127. A computer-generated potentiometric surface of the Mount Simon aquifer for 1980 indicates ground-water movement was to the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers in Minnesota and western Wisconsin and to pumping centers in eastern Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and northern Illinois.

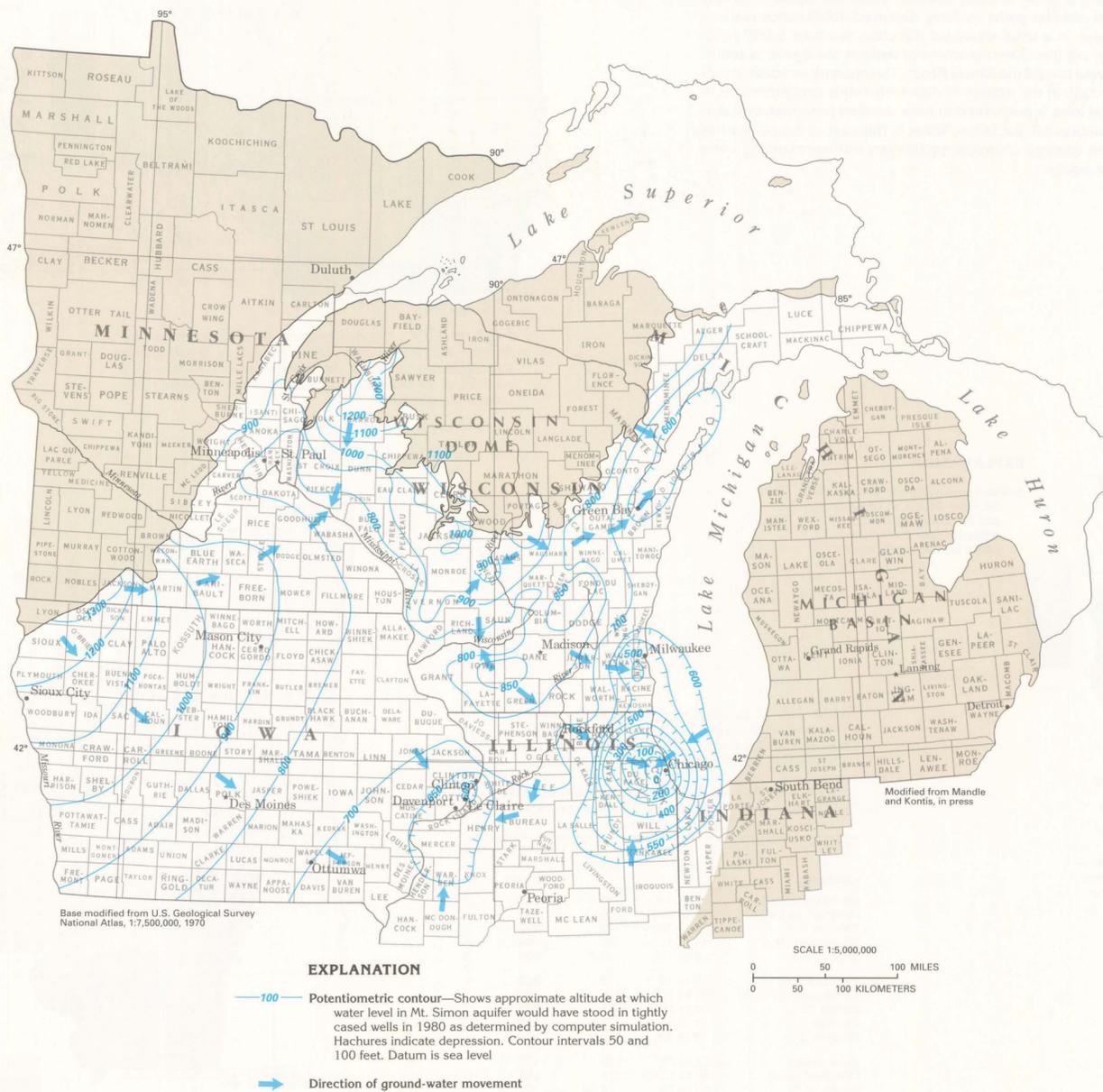
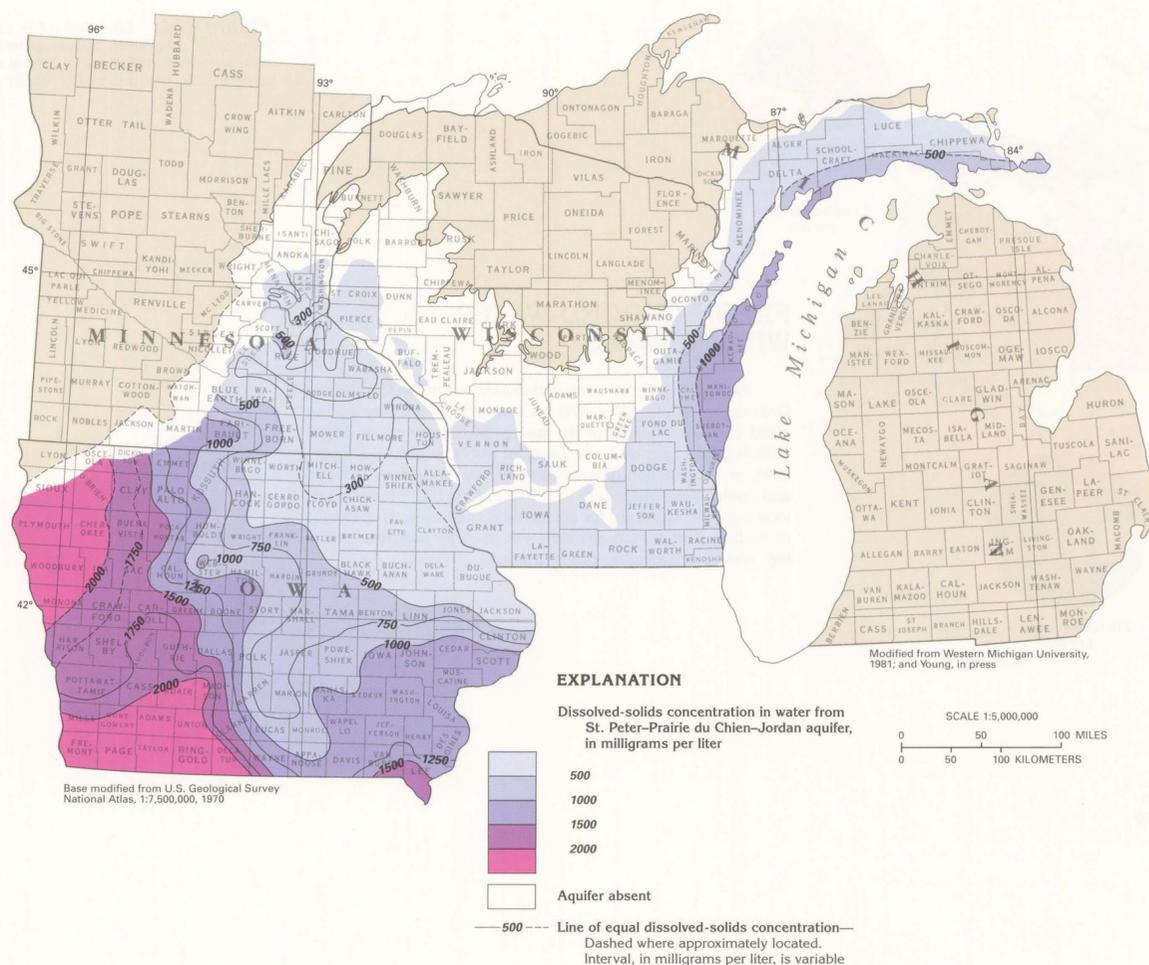


Figure 128. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer generally are less than 500 milligrams per liter in outcrop areas, but concentrations exceed 1,000 milligrams per liter downdip where the aquifer is deeply buried.



GROUND-WATER FLOW—Continued

The Ironton-Galesville aquifer is confined where it is overlain by the St. Lawrence-Franconia confining unit in southeastern Minnesota, much of Iowa, and eastern Wisconsin (fig. 126). The aquifer is unconfined to partially confined in extreme northeastern Iowa and in much of Wisconsin on the periphery of the Wisconsin Dome and the Hollandale Embayment. Throughout its area of occurrence, the aquifer is confined below by the Eau Claire confining unit.

Transmissivity values calculated from aquifer tests in 14 wells completed in the Ironton-Galesville aquifer ranged from 200 to 3,000 feet squared per day with a median value of 1,100 feet squared per day. Hydraulic conductivity of the Ironton-Galesville aquifer, as determined from packer tests in 16 wells (including the 14 wells used to calculate transmissivity), ranged from 1.0 to 31 feet per day, with a median value of 8.4 feet per day.

Packer tests were conducted in a deep test well located in extreme northeastern Illinois about halfway between centers of withdrawal in the Chicago-Milwaukee cone of depression. The well penetrated the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer (only the St. Peter Sandstone is present), the Ironton-Galesville aquifer, and the Mount Simon aquifer (which is split into two separate parts by a confining unit in that area). Hydraulic properties of the aquifers, as determined from the packer tests, are summarized in table 7. Static water levels in the several aquifers are presented in table 8. The Ironton-Galesville aquifer has a transmissivity of 1,100 feet squared per day compared to a transmissivity of only 250 and 840 feet squared per day (table 7) for the other two aquifers, and a hydraulic conductivity of 10 feet per day compared to a hydraulic conductivity of only 1.8 and 1.5 feet per day (table 7) for the other two aquifers. The water level in the Ironton-Galesville aquifer also was consistently the lowest of the three aquifers (table 8). Thus, the Ironton-Galesville aquifer is apparently the largest contributor to wells in the Milwaukee-Chicago cone of depression, and water from overlying and underlying aquifers flows vertically into the Ironton-Galesville in response to withdrawal. Historical water-level declines due to large withdrawals from the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system have been about 800 feet without lowering the composite hydraulic head of the aquifer system to the top of the Ironton-Galesville aquifer.

A computer-generated map of the 1980 potentiometric surface of the Mount Simon aquifer is shown in figure 127. The configuration of the potentiometric surface is similar to that of the Ironton-Galesville aquifer (fig. 126) and indicates that ground-water flow in the Mount Simon aquifer is toward the major drains, the Illinois Basin, and cones of depression created by large withdrawals at Milwaukee and Green Bay, Wis., Clinton, Iowa, and Chicago, Ill. Major discharge areas for the Mount Simon aquifer are along the principal rivers in the northern part of the area where depth to the aquifer is at a minimum (fig. 127). Water enters the aquifer at recharge areas at or near the outcrop of the aquifer and moves toward the Mississippi River and its tributaries, the Minnesota, St. Croix, Wisconsin, and Rock Rivers, where it is discharged. In Iowa, where the aquifer is deeply buried, flow is generally south toward the Missouri River in Missouri and southeastward toward the Illinois Basin. In eastern Wisconsin, flow is generally toward cones of depression at Milwaukee and Green Bay.

Hydraulic-property data for the Mount Simon aquifer are available from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Representative values of transmissivity and hydraulic conductivity that were calculated from aquifer or packer tests are listed in table 9. Transmissivity values ranged from 270 to 9,400 feet squared per day; the median value was about 1,650 feet squared per day; hydraulic-conductivity values ranged from 0.38 to 9.2 feet per day; the median was 4.8 feet per day.

Table 9. Transmissivity values for the Mount Simon aquifer at 6 sites in Segment 9 ranged from 270 to 9,400 feet squared per day

[Modified from Young, in press. —, no data available]		
Site location	Transmissivity (feet squared per day)	Hydraulic conductivity (feet per day)
Southwestern Minn.	270-9,400	—
Minneapolis-St. Paul area, Minn.	1,600-3,100	—
Jackson County, Iowa	350	0.38
Vernon County, Wis.	3,600	9.2
Waukesha County, Wis.	1,000	2.2
Kenosha County, Wis.	1,700	2.0

GROUND-WATER QUALITY

Water from the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer is not greatly mineralized in areas where the aquifer crops out or is buried only to shallow depths, but mineralization increases downdip where the aquifer is deeply buried. The distribution of dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the aquifer (fig. 128) documents this increase. In much of southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, southern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (all areas where the aquifer is at or near land surface) dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the aquifer are 500 milligrams per liter or less. Concentrations of dissolved solids increase to about 2,000 milligrams per liter to the west and the south in Iowa where the aquifer is deeply buried. Similarly, dissolved-solids concentrations increase downdip in eastern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as the aquifer dips into the Michigan Basin and becomes covered by younger rocks.

The direction of downdip increase of dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the St. Peter-Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in Minnesota and Iowa is approximately perpendicular to the direction of the flow in the aquifer (fig. 116). This is contrary to the usual case, where dissolved-solids concentrations increase downdip in regional systems. Oxygen-isotope data indicate that water in the aquifer in central Iowa was recharged from a cold-water source. It is theorized that subglacial meltwater moved into the aquifer during Pleistocene time from areas of extremely high hydraulic heads created by the weight of the glacial ice. The chemistry of the water in the aquifer has not yet attained equilibrium; hence, the anomalously small dissolved-solids concentrations.

GROUND-WATER QUALITY— Continued

Major cations in water from the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer are calcium, magnesium, and sodium; major anions in the water are bicarbonate, sulfate, and chloride. The patterns of distribution of concentrations of these cations and anions are similar to that of dissolved-solids concentrations. Concentrations of chloride and sulfate in the combined St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan and Mount Simon aquifers are shown in figures 129 and 130. Concentrations of these ions also are anomalously small in central Iowa and are similar to those of dissolved-solids concentrations.

A summary of representative analyses of water from the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer in Minnesota is presented in table 10. Average values are representative for much of the area where dissolved-solids concentrations are less than 500 milligrams per liter (fig. 128). The water is typically a mixed-ion type (table 10) and locally contains objectionable concentrations of iron and manganese. Although large concentrations of iron and manganese in water are a nuisance, they are not deleterious to health and are easily removed by water treatment.

Water in the Ironton–Galesville aquifer is a calcium magnesium bicarbonate type throughout the area of occurrence of the aquifer in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Penin-

sula of Michigan. In Iowa, the aquifer contains freshwater in the extreme northeastern part of the State, but the water rapidly becomes salty southwestward. The southwestward increase in dissolved-solids concentrations in the Ironton–Galesville aquifer also is apparent in Minnesota, where concentrations increase from 300 to 400 milligrams per liter along the Mississippi River to about 1,000 milligrams per liter in the southwestern part of the area of occurrence of the aquifer.

The quality of the water in the Mount Simon aquifer, like that in the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer, is apparently affected by recharge that took place during continental glaciation. The regional distribution of dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Mount Simon aquifer is shown in figure 131. In the northern area, where water moves along short flowpaths from outcrop recharge areas to nearby rivers, dissolved-solids concentrations are less than 500 milligrams per liter. In areas of Iowa, however, where the aquifer is deeply buried and flow paths are long, dissolved-solids concentrations increase in a southwestward direction to about 5,000 milligrams per liter. The movement of water in the aquifer is southeastward toward the Illinois Basin. The anomalous south-trending trough in the pattern of dissolved-solids concentrations in central Iowa is postulated to have resulted from recharge during continental glaciation. Water in this part of the aquifer has not yet attained chemical equilibrium with surrounding water in the aquifer.

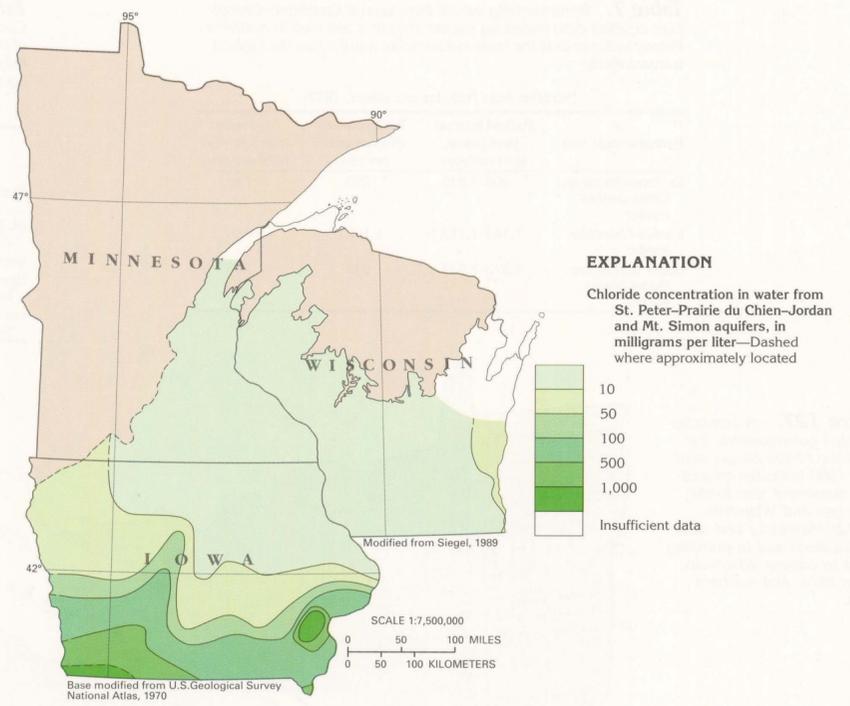


Figure 129. Chloride concentrations in water from the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan and Mount Simon aquifers increase down the dip of the aquifers rather than down the gradient of the potentiometric surface due to recharge during continental glaciation.

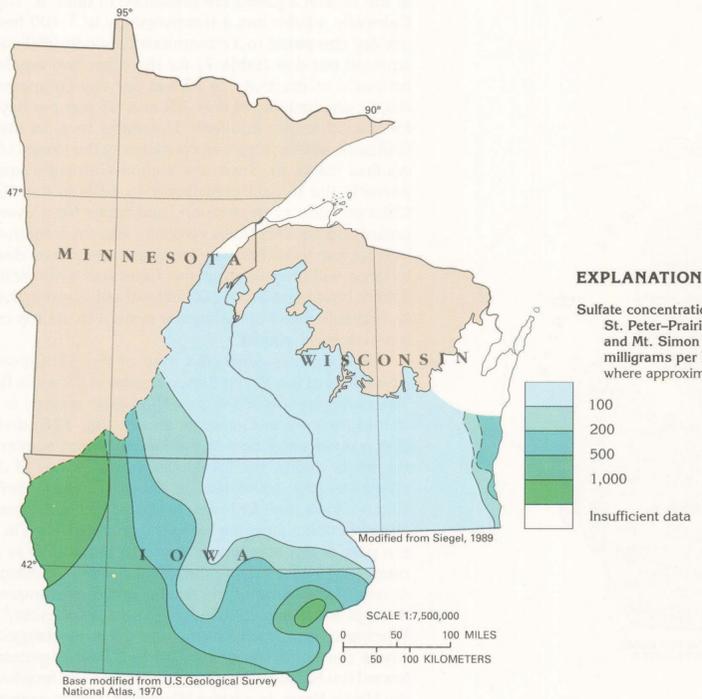


Figure 130. Sulfate concentrations in water from the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan and Mount Simon aquifers parallel concentrations of chloride and dissolved solids. The large sulfate concentrations in northwestern Iowa are due to recharge of sulfate-rich water from the Cretaceous aquifer.

Table 10. A summary of common anion-cation concentrations in water from the St. Peter–Prairie du Chien–Jordan aquifer indicates a mixed-ion type water with relatively small concentrations of constituents

[Modified from Ruhl and others, 1982; Ruhl and Wolf, 1983a. Concentrations in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified. <, less than]

Property or constituent	Range	Average	Number of analyses
pH (standard units)	6.6 to 8.4	7.6	215
Hardness as CaCO ₃	150 to 660	280	227
Calcium (Ca)	26 to 290	70	226
Magnesium (Mg)	11 to 51	26	194
Sodium (Na)	1.4 to 110	8.7	227
Potassium (K)	0.3 to 14	2	203
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	191 to 550	319	182
Sulfate (SO ₄)	14 to 480	28	227
Chloride (Cl)	<1 to 35	3.6	227
Fluoride (F)	.1 to 0.5	0.2	217
Silica (SiO ₂)	8.1 to 29	16	192
Dissolved solids	165 to 1,000	311	187
Nitrate as N	<.01 to 29	2.34	93

¹ Median

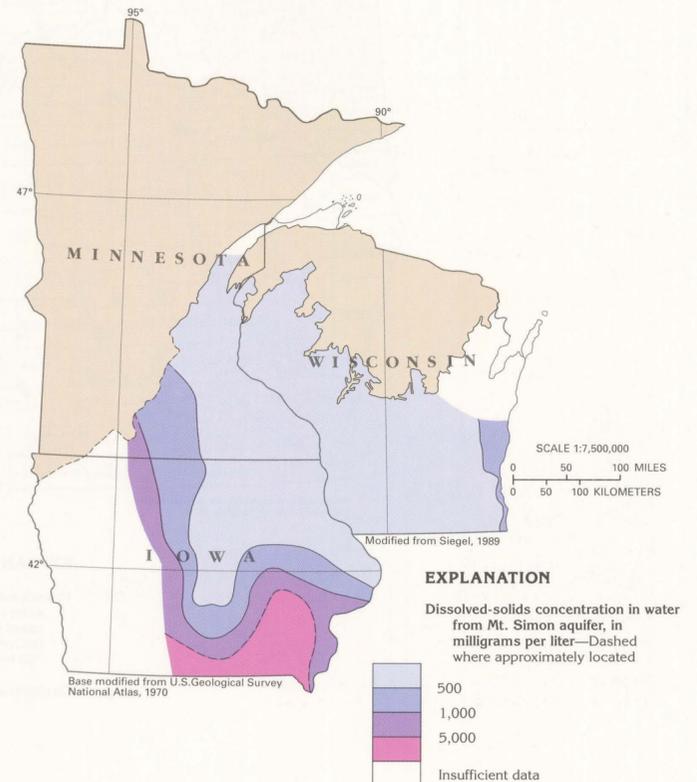
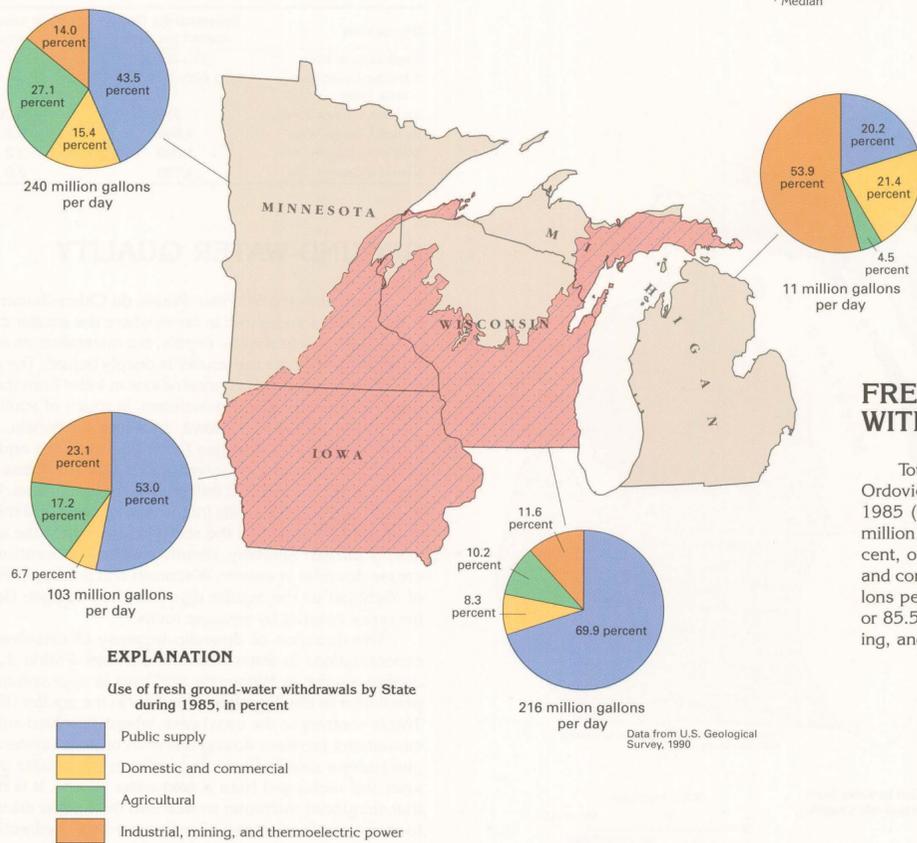


Figure 131. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Mount Simon aquifer generally are less than 500 milligrams per liter except in central and southern Iowa and eastern Wisconsin where the aquifer is deeply buried.



FRESH GROUND-WATER WITHDRAWALS

Total fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer were 570 million gallons per day during 1985 (fig. 132). Most of the water, 54.8 percent, or 312.4 million gallons per day, was used for public supply; 12.5 percent, or 71.3 million gallons per day, was used for domestic and commercial purposes; 17.7 percent, or 100.9 million gallons per day, was used for agricultural purposes; 15 percent, or 85.5 million gallons per day, was used for industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power purposes.

Figure 132. Total fresh ground-water withdrawals from the Cambrian–Ordovician aquifer system in Segment 9 during 1985 were 570 million gallons per day.

JACOBSVILLE AQUIFER

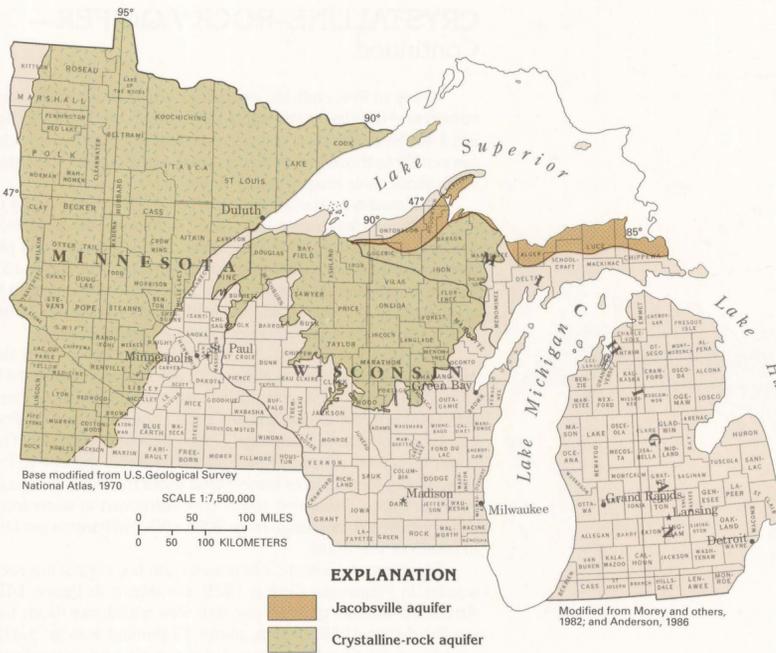
The Jacobsville aquifer (fig. 133) consists of the Jacobsville Sandstone, which is a feldspathic to quartzitic sandstone and shale that is present along the southern shore of Lake Superior and on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Jacobsville Sandstone is Precambrian in age and overlies crystalline rocks that also are of Precambrian age as shown in figures 134 and 135. The Jacobsville is overlain by Cambrian and Ordovician rocks to the south (figs. 135, 136) where it thins to a featheredge; its thickness has not been well defined where it is covered by younger rocks. Where the Jacobsville Sandstone is present at the shore of Lake Superior, its thickness is about 1,000 feet (fig. 137).

The Jacobsville aquifer provides a source of water for domestic and small-community wells along its area of outcrop, especially where drift is thin or missing (fig. 136). Where the drift is thick, wells are completed in the drift rather than in the underlying bedrock aquifers. Although the Jacobsville aquifer is a sandstone, it is well cemented and has low permeability. Water moves primarily through joints and fractures in the sandstone, and these openings decrease to insignificance at depths of 100 to 150 feet. Hydraulic-conductivity values are about 1 foot per day, and the aquifer generally is confined.

In its area of use, the Jacobsville aquifer contains water that is only slightly more mineralized than water in the surficial aquifer system, as indicated in table 11. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the Jacobsville aquifer generally are less than 1,000 milligrams per liter.

Freshwater withdrawals from the Jacobsville aquifer during 1985 were about 6.5 million gallons per day (fig. 138) which was nearly equally divided between public supply, domestic and commercial, and industrial, mining, and thermoelectric-power uses; only about 1.1 percent of the total withdrawals were pumped for agricultural use.

Figure 133. The Jacobsville aquifer is present along the southern shore of Lake Superior and on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The crystalline-rock aquifer is a principal aquifer only in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.



Jacobsville and crystalline-rock aquifers

Era	System	Stratigraphic unit	Principal lithology	Hydrogeologic unit
Paleozoic	Cambrian	Munising Sandstone	Sandstone	Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer system
		Jacobsville Sandstone	Sandstone	Jacobsville aquifer
Middle Proterozoic		Crystalline rocks, undifferentiated	Igneous and metamorphic rocks	Crystalline-rock aquifer

Figure 134. The Jacobsville Sandstone overlies Precambrian crystalline rocks and is overlain by the Munising Sandstone.

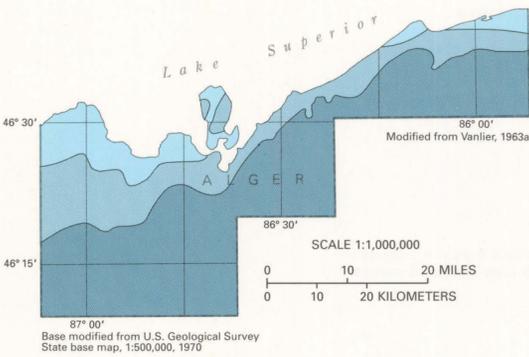


Figure 135. A generalized section shows that the Jacobsville Sandstone is thickest near the shore of Lake Superior and thins southeastward toward the Michigan Basin.

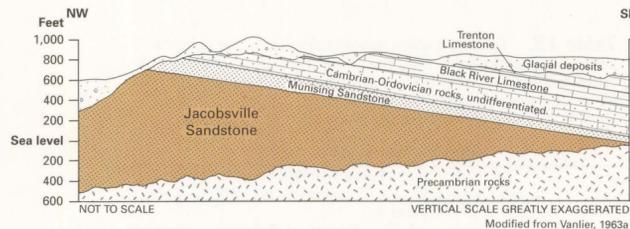


Figure 136. The Jacobsville Sandstone is an important aquifer where it either crops out or is at shallow depths.

Figure 137. The Jacobsville Sandstone is about 1,000 feet thick along the southern shore of Lake Superior.

CRYSTALLINE-ROCK AQUIFER

A variety of types of Precambrian crystalline rocks underlies the entire four-State area. These rocks crop out in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (fig. 139); elsewhere, however, they are buried beneath younger sedimentary rocks to depths of as much as 14,000 feet (in the Michigan Basin). Crystalline rocks normally are considered a barrier to ground-water movement because their permeability is at least an order of magnitude less than that of most sediments that overlie them. Where no other aquifers are available, however, crystalline rocks are an important source of water, especially for domestic and farm wells.

Water generally moves through secondary openings, such as joints, fractures, and faults, in the crystalline rocks. Because these openings are largely insignificant below depths of a few hundred feet, the availability of water is similarly limited to this depth.

The crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota consists of five rock types: the North Shore Volcanic Group, Sioux Quartzite, metasedimentary rocks, the Biwabik Iron Formation, and undifferentiated Precambrian rocks. The extent of these rock types is shown in figure 139. The lithology, water-yielding characteristics, and water quality of each rock type are summarized in table 12.

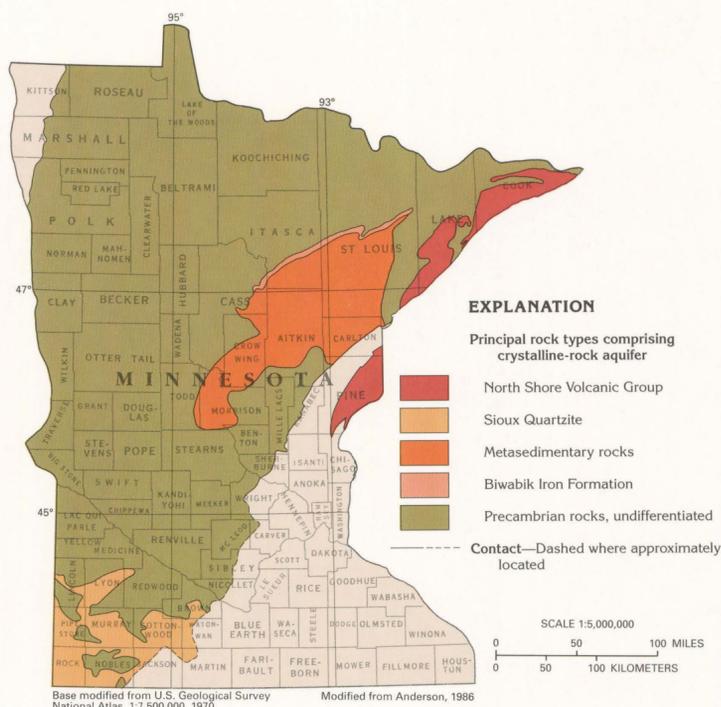


Figure 139. The crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota consists of five rock types.

Table 12. The five rock types comprising the crystalline-rock aquifer have variable water-yielding characteristics and yield fresh to extremely salty water

Rock type	Lithology	Water-yielding characteristics	Water quality
North Shore Volcanic Group	A series of basaltic lava flows composed of fine-grained igneous rocks and interbedded sedimentary rocks	Yields water from joints and fractures in the basalt and in the interbedded sedimentary rocks	Ranges from fresh to extremely salty
Sioux Quartzite	Orthoquartzite interbedded with hard, red mudstone and sandstone	Yields water from weathered zones at the bedrock surface and from joints, fractures, and porous, poorly cemented sandstone at various depths	Ranges from fresh to salty
Metasedimentary rocks	Thinly bedded gray to black argillite, slate, and meta-graywacke	Yields water from weathered regolith and fractures	Generally fresh
Biwabik Iron Formation	Hard ferruginous chert. Texture varies from dense to slaty. Interbedded with hematite and magnetite iron ore	Yields water from leached zones of the ore deposits	Generally fresh and suitable for drinking except for large concentrations of iron and manganese
Undifferentiated Precambrian rocks	Granite, gabbro, gneiss, schist, slate, and other crystalline rocks	Yields water from weathered regolith and fractures	Ranges from fresh to salty

Table 11. The quality of water from the Jacobsville aquifer is similar to that from the surficial aquifer system

Property or constituent	Average concentration (milligrams per liter)	
	Water from Jacobsville aquifer (7 wells)	Water from surficial aquifer system (5 wells)
Hardness as (CaCO ₃)	139	84
Calcium (Ca)	33	24
Magnesium (Mg)	13.5	6.1
Sodium (Na)	5.1	4.2
Potassium (K)	6	1.3
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	157	147
Sulfate (SO ₄)	18.8	7
Chloride (Cl)	2.6	3.5
Silica (SiO ₂)	8.2	9.9
Dissolved solids	170	117
Iron (Fe)	0.1	6

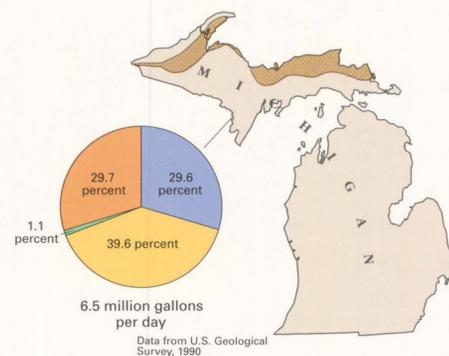


Figure 138. Freshwater withdrawals from the Jacobsville aquifer during 1985 were 6.5 million gallons per day.

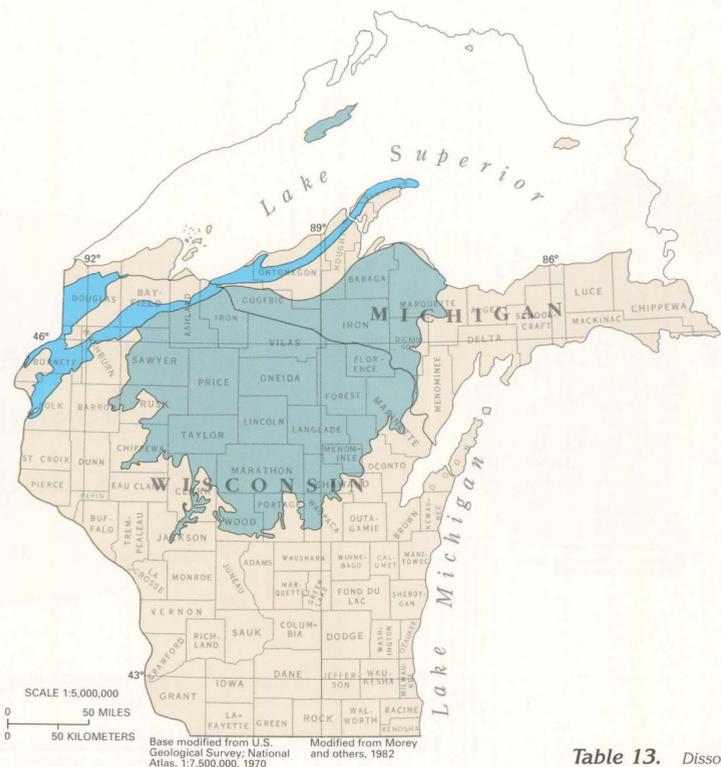
CRYSTALLINE-ROCK AQUIFER— Continued

Areas of Precambrian crystalline rocks in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are shown in figure 140. Water-yielding characteristics of the crystalline rocks are similar to those in Minnesota; small yields can be expected throughout their area of occurrence.

The quality of the water in the crystalline-rock aquifer of Minnesota and Wisconsin is variable. In Minnesota, dissolved-solids concentrations range from less than 100 milligrams per liter to slightly more than 74,000 milligrams per liter (table 13). The freshest water is present in the Biwabik Iron Formation in north-central Minnesota, and the saltiest water is present in the North Shore Volcanic Group of northeastern Minnesota.

The dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota are shown in figure 141. Dissolved-solids concentrations tend to be larger in western and southern Minnesota, where Cretaceous rocks overlie Precambrian rocks and where the glacial deposits are thick. The larger dissolved-solids concentrations probably are due to the downward percolation of mineralized water from the overlying, younger rocks. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the crystalline rocks range from 200 to 500 milligrams per liter in much of the State.

Fresh ground-water withdrawals from the crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota during 1985 are shown in figure 142. About 10 million gallons per day was withdrawn from the aquifer during 1985; of that, about 30 percent was for public supply, about 65 percent was for domestic and commercial purposes, and about 5 percent was for agricultural purposes.



EXPLANATION

- Lava flows—Maximum reported well yields are 25 gallons per minute
- Crystalline igneous and metamorphic rocks—Generally unproductive, but supply a few domestic wells where overlain by thin glacial drift. Well yields generally less than 5 gallons per minute

Figure 140. In northern Wisconsin and the western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the crystalline-rock aquifer yields only a few gallons per minute to wells.

Table 13. Dissolved-solids concentrations in water from the various rock types comprising the crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota indicate a considerable range of concentrations with the largest average concentrations in water from the North Shore Volcanic Group and the Sioux Quartzite

[Modified from Anderson, 1986]

Rock type	Number of samples	Dissolved-solids concentration (milligrams per liter)		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
North Shore Volcanic Group	21	5,700	91	74,300
Sioux Quartzite	25	1,150	237	2,300
Metasedimentary rocks	30	310	126	2,420
Biwabik Iron Formation	14	230	157	388
Undifferentiated Precambrian rocks	197	605	96	2,450
Central Minn.	69	362	145	2,130
Southwestern Minn.	64	915	244	1,980
Northeastern Minn.	29	392	96	2,450
Northwestern Minn.	35	695	333	2,060
All rock types	287	976	91	74,300

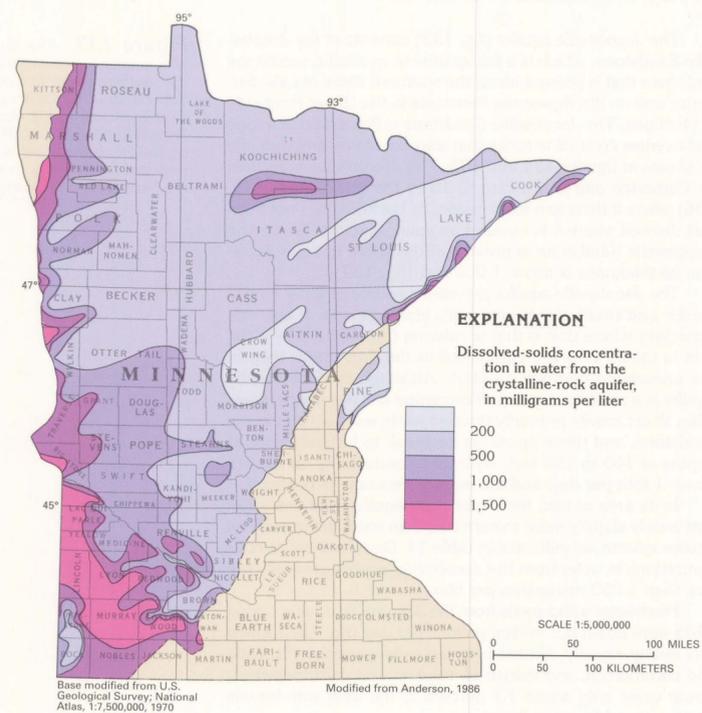
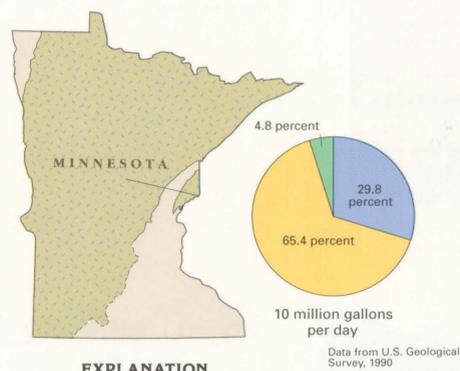


Figure 141. Dissolved-solids concentrations of water in the crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota are large in the western part of State because the overlying Cretaceous aquifer contributes mineralized water to the underlying crystalline-rock aquifer.



EXPLANATION

Use of fresh ground-water withdrawals during 1985, in percent

- 29.8 Public supply
- 65.4 Domestic and commercial
- 4.8 Agricultural

Figure 142. Freshwater withdrawals from the crystalline-rock aquifer in Minnesota during 1985 were about 10 million gallons per day.

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