

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi Gulf Coast, particularly in Jackson and Harrison Counties (fig. 1), is experiencing rapid economic and industrial growth. Continued growth in the area depends on the availability of an adequate supply of potable water. In 1990, more than 50 million gallons per day of ground water was withdrawn in the two counties. In 1994, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with Jackson County, began a 2-year investigation to compile information on the location and depth of water-bearing sands in Jackson County. In 1995, the USGS started a similar investigation with Harrison County.



Figure 1. Location of Jackson and Harrison Counties, Mississippi.

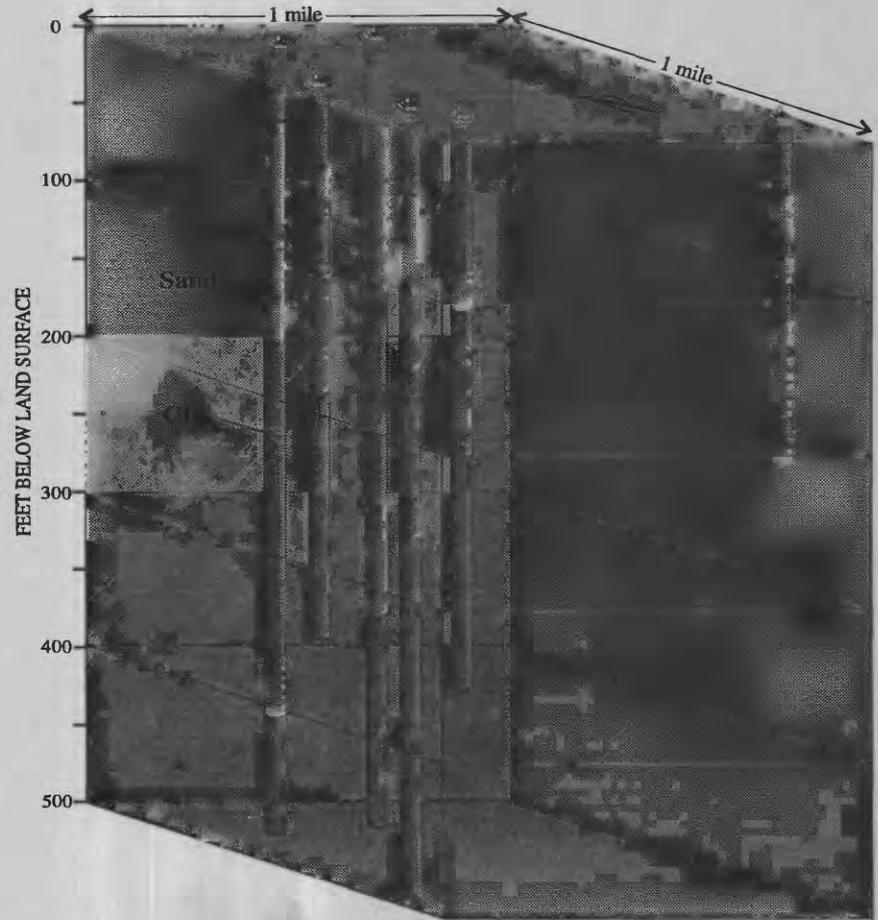


Figure 2. Depth below land surface of water-bearing sands in T. 7 S., R. 5 W., sec. 18 in Jackson County, Mississippi.

ABOUT THE DATA

Drillers' logs and geophysical logs from various sources were analyzed to determine the location and depth of water-bearing sands. Data from more than 1,600 logs were compiled for Jackson County. Each log was checked for accuracy of location and for adequate description of subsurface materials. Data determined from each log were entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS) data base. The location and depth of water-bearing sands in T. 7 S., R. 5 W., sec. 18 in Jackson County is shown on figure 2 as a graphic example of

the data. Similar data-compilation efforts are ongoing for Harrison County. This information is beneficial to city planners, engineers, water managers, water-well contractors, real estate developers, industries, and consultants, as well as scientists investigating the nature and distribution of the sediments.

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