

Table 1.—Selected properties of rock units in the Culpeper basin and vicinity, Virginia and Maryland modified from, U.S. Geological Survey, 1967; Lee, 1979, 1980; Lindholm, 1979; Drake and Froelich, 1977; Drake and others, 1979; and Froelich, 1975.

Strength Class	Range of Compressive Strength (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Very high	>2,240
High	1,120-2,240
Medium	560-1,120
Low	280-560
Very low	<280

\*refered for intact rock. Modulus is reduced by physical defects and chemical alteration in the rock. It differs with bedding, foliation, or direction of maximum stress.

Strength Class	Range of Modulus of Elasticity (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Very high	8.4X10 <sup>3</sup>
High	5.6X10 <sup>3</sup> —8.4X10 <sup>3</sup>
Medium	2.8X10 <sup>3</sup> —5.6X10 <sup>3</sup>
Low	0.7X10 <sup>3</sup> —2.8X10 <sup>3</sup>
Very low	<0.7X10 <sup>3</sup>

The Culpeper basin is a structural trough filled with sedimentary and igneous rocks of Mesozoic age that borders the eastern front of the Blue Ridge in northern Virginia. The basin extends from the Rapidan River near Madison Mills, Va. northeastward across the Potomac River and terminates just west of Frederick, Md.

This report is one of a series of extensive site information maps being prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey as part of the geologic and hydrologic resources of the Culpeper basin. The map, which was prepared by J. W. Galloway in 1971, 1979, 1980, Eggerton (1975), and Lindholm (1979). The scale of these maps, 1:225,000 (1 inch = approximately 2 miles), permits only a regional overview or guide to evaluating geologic and hydrologic conditions that may influence certain types of land use. The maps are not intended for enlargement, nor are they, or any graphical or tabulated data included, intended to be used for detailed engineering or other detailed studies; the general conditions portrayed on these maps, and detailed studies are invariably required for site planning.

#### REFERENCES CITED

- REFERENCES CITED**
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## INTRODUCTION

This generalized bedrock map of the Culpeper basin and vicinity, Virginia and Maryland, shows nine major rock types; each type groups rock units having grossly similar physical characteristics. Five sedimentary and four crystalline rock types are described in order from softest, best bedded, most foliated, and most readily splittable to hardest, most massive, and least splittable.

The Culpeper basin contains a variety of sedimentary rocks (formed by accumulation of sediment in water) consisting of layers or beds of sandstone, shale, siltstone, and conglomerate. They are grouped into five principal rock types, units S1 through S5 (see Fig. 1). The map units on the map units indicate the trend (strike) and inclination (dip) of the rock layers. The layers dip generally  $5^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$  westward, the strata steepening progressively toward a major normal fault system that forms the linear western margin of the basin. Fresh rock outcrops are most abundant along stream valleys. The upland areas are mantled by a thin residuum of partly decayed rock usually less than 6 m thick, with soil at the surface, while most of the stream valleys are covered by a thick, mature soil.

In the western part of the basin, the sediments are interbedded with flows of basalt (unit B), a crystalline igneous rock, which was once molten and which rose from great depth along fractures. This molten rock was extruded as lava flows that crystallized fairly rapidly at the surface.

All the secondary rocks are cut locally by diabase (unit J), a crystalline igneous rock which, like the basalt, was once molten and which also rose from great depth along fractures. In contrast to the basalt, this rock crystallized deep below the surface. Diabase occurs as dikes (narrow, elongate, subvertical bodies), sills (flat tabular bodies more or less parallel to the bedding of the sedimentary rocks), or stocks (large discordant bodies with steep subvertical sides). The sedimentary rock immediately adjacent to these diabase intrusions is commonly thermally altered to

The basin is bordered and underlain by a great variety of metamorphic "basement" rock (crystalline rocks formed in the solid state in response to great heat and maximum pressure that profoundly altered the original texture during deep burial), grouped together as unit P. Different rock types within this unit crop out in linear belts. The belts of rock generally strike north-northeast and dip steeply to the northwest or southeast. Most of the rocks are foliated, with platy materials such as mica and chlorite so oriented that the rock splits most readily in the direction of foliation or layering. Locally, as at Herndon and in "The Ridge," southeast of Culpeper, Va., linings of basement rock protrude through the sedimentary rocks of

All the rock types are cut by intersecting systems of joints (planar fractures or partings that abruptly interrupt the physical continuity of a rock mass). The igneous rocks (units J and B) display columnar cooling joints, and the sedimentary rocks (S1 through S5) commonly have joints produced by shrinkage or other diagenetic changes; tectonic joints formed by pervasive deformational stresses are present in all the units.

A number of broad flexures that plunge gently to the west are present in the western portion of the Culpeper basin (Lindholm, 1979; Froelich, unpublished data). Gentle south-plunging, northeast-trending folds are mapped east of Nokesville (Lee, 1979) and minor tight folds are near the western border fault near Point of Rocks and south of Leesburg (Froelich, unpublished data; Voldmann, unpublished data).

The map may be used in conjunction with the mineral resources map (Friedrich & Lewis, 1982) to delineate the areas of mineral potential. The map may also be used in conjunction with the surface mineral map (Friedrich, 1982) to delineate areas of similar rock medium. Such a map may be useful in the study of redoxlation, and the redox potential in areas of similar topography. When used in conjunction with the map of the availability of water (Friedrich, 1982), the map may be used to study the availability of ground water (Pomeroy and Zenger, 1982), which are some considerations in the study of the availability of water. The map may also be used to assess the amount of soil for surface or subsurface disposal of treated waste water in the water catchment area.

This map may provide a better understanding of regional structure and may prove useful to engineers in the planning and location of major construction projects in the region. The map may also be used to assess the power of the regional geology and the regional structure.

**SANDSTONE**—the eastern part of the

to gray, arkosic, micaceous sandstone, calcite cement, interbedded with purple siltstone; also includes minor amount shale and quartz pebble conglomerate. Sandstone is typically gray, calcareous,

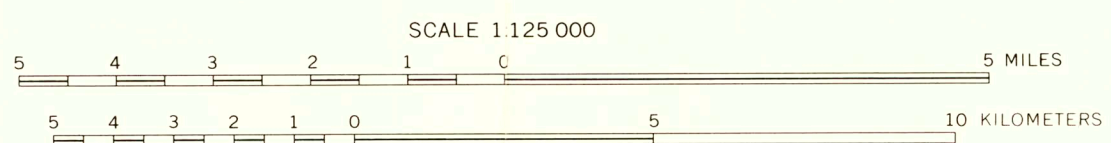
Sources of geologic data used to compile this map appear below in the list of references cited. Geology shown on this map has been modified from these references on the basis of field observations and additional geologic data. The symbols used to indicate lithologies and structural features are based on standard symbols and listed characteristics and general engineering properties of the major rock types. Table 1 also lists geologic names and those geologic map symbols that are used on this map. The symbols used to indicate structural features are based on standard symbols and listed characteristics and general engineering properties of the major rock types (see Table 1). By locating the specific area of a geologic unit of interest on the 1:24,000 scale map, the map symbol can be matched to the basic unit of the geologic map and the general engineering properties of the rock type can be determined. For example, geologic unit U1 on the Novekville quadrangle equals to unit S1 on this map and the corresponding engineering properties of the rock type can be determined. The corresponding engineering properties listed in parentheses following the rock type are based on data obtained specifically in the relevant references.

## REFERENCES CITED

- [illegible]

Predominant consolidated rock types, in order of decreasing ease of excavation and rippability and increasing hardness. Main rock name and map symbol in upper-case letters. Lower-case letters denote rock structure: b, bedded rock; fol, foliated rock; m, massive rock.

- Contact between rock types
- Strike (direction) and dip of inclined beds in layered or stratified rocks; symbol indicates strike and angle of dip, in degrees
- $<5^{\circ}$ – $20^{\circ}$
- $21^{\circ}$ – $40^{\circ}$
- $41^{\circ}$ – $60^{\circ}$
- Anticlinal fold or flexure showing trace of axial plane and direction of plunge
- Synclinal fold or flexure showing trace of axial plane and direction of plunge



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