DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEW JERSEY GEOLOGICAL AND WATER SURVEY

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# Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM

### The Princeton 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-minute quadrangle is in west-central New Jersey, where it covers parts of Mercer and Middlesex Counties. Topographic elevations range from approximately 400 ft in the north to 80 ft in the south. The highest elevations are on Mount Rose, a prominent ridge of igneous diabase, commonly called trap rock, lying along the northern quadrangle boundary. Less resistant shale and mudstone that have been metamorphosed to hornfels surrounds the diabase and forms slightly lower elevations. Elevations remain fairly uniform with several small, broad hills in the northwestern third of the quadrangle where Stony Brook cuts through sedimentary rock units. South of Princeton elevation drops slightly forming a broad flat landscape that is underlain by some less resistant sandstones. Crystalline metamorphic rocks create a slight positive landscape in the southwest corner of the the quadrangle. Unlithified sediment underlies the gentle landscape morphology on the southeastern third of the quadrangle up to 100 ft in elevation. The Delaware and Raritan Canal is a prominent physical feature in the quadrangle. It runs northeast southwest, close to, and approximately parallel to, US Route 1, a major northeast-southwest transportation corridor. The canal connects the Delaware and Raritan Rivers, and it facilitated commerce between Philadelphia and New York in the 1800's. It now serves as a local water-supply source. The Route 1 corridor roughly separates areas of good to moderate bedrock exposures in the northwest from areas of less common and more deeply weathered exposures in the southeast. The Fall line separates bedrock of the Piedmont Province from the unconsolidated material of the Coastal Plain Province. The Princeton quadrangle straddles the contacts between three primary bedrock groups. From the northwest to the southeast, these groups are: 1) Early Mesozoic sedimentary and igneous rocks of the Newark Basin, 2) Proterozoic and Paleozoic metamorphic crystalline rocks of the Trenton Prong, and 3) Upper Cretaceous semiconsolidated to

unconsolidated bedrock of the Coastal Plain. Rocks of the Newark Basin unconformably overlie the Trenton Prong rocks which form the geological basement for all the younger materials in the study area. Coastal Plain deposits also unconformably overlie Trenton Prong units in the Princeton quadrangle. Outside the study area Coastal Plain units completely blanket the Trenton Prong and onlap rocks of the Newark Basin. Early Mesozoic rocks include sedimentary and igneous varieties that were deposited in the Newark Basin, a regional half graben, fault-bounded on its northern boundary, that extends from eastern Pennsylvania through New Jersey and into southeastern New York. The basin was filled with as much as 20,000 feet of Late Triassic through Early Jurassic rocks. Fluvial systems developed between border-fault segments and deposited Proterozoic and Paleozoic sediment into the basin from the Highlands to the north and west. Additional sediment came from the Trenton Prong metamorphic rocks in

Sedimentary rocks of the Newark Basin include fluvial and lacustrine deposits that are locally intruded with diabase and interbedded with basaltic rocks that are approximately 201 my in age (McHone and others, 2003). The basal sedimentary unit in the Newark Basin is the Stockton Formation, a fluvial conglomerate and arkosic sandstone with red, light brown, gray and white interbeds. Conglomerate is more common near its base and the basin margins whereas sandstone, siltstone and mudstone are more common in the upper half of the unit and in areas away from the basin margins (McLaughlin, 1945, 1959; Glaeser, 1966). Smoot (1991) and Smoot and Olsen (1994) suggest that the Stockton was deposited by high-gradient, braided streams that cut down through a residual surface mantled by gravel and colluvium. Infilling toward the basin center eventually reduced stream gradients and resulted in deposition of an overall, fining-upward, fluvial sequence. The uppermost units gradually grade into cyclical lacustrine beds of the Lockatong Formation. The Lockatong is mostly gray and black siltstone and argillte and lesser, interbedded red shale and siltstone. Smoot (1991) described the Lockatong as cyclic deepwater deposits that shortly grade upward into desiccated features and subaerial deposits with little to no associated fluvial facies. The Passaic Formation overlies the Lockatong. The Passaic is a thick sequence of red-brown and reddish-purple mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, and lesser cycles of gray and black siltstone, mudstone and rare sandstone. Its coarser grain size, marginal alluvial facies, and broader lateral extent compared to the Lockatong, suggest a broadening of the basin through time (Smoot, 1991).

climatic periods (Olsen and Kent, 1996, Olsen and others 1996). Vast, deep lakes developed in the basin during wetter periods when the gray and black units of the deeper water environments were deposited. Red and brown units correlate to dryer climatic periods marker by shallow lakes and subaerial mud-flat deposits. Outcrops of the Lockatong formation in the Princeton quadrangle are too few to enable mapping of individual beds or color sequences like those defined by Olsen and others (1996). In the Passaic Formation more numerous outcrops make some subdivision possible. Here gray-bed sequences have been mapped where possible within the red and brown beds. These thin, gray to black interbeds form distinctive marker horizons that may be mappable for miles along strike. These beds help depict fold patterns. A sequence of three gray beds in the northwest corner of the quadrangle are thought to correlate with part of the Perkasie member of the Passaic Formation, based on comparison of mapped units with the subsurface coring results of Olsen and others (1996), and on unpublished, detailed bedrock mapping of units in the adjacent Pennington quadrangle to the west.

The northern edge of the Princeton quadrangle consists of a large diabase body intruded into Triassic sedimentary rocks. It forms an east-west ridge that includes Mount Rose and Rocky Hill farther to the east. The thickest part of the body forms a sill which has been injected subparallel to bedding. Along strike to the west, the diabase thins dramatically, and cuts across bedding to form a dike. Much of it was delineated by mapping diabase float. Thermally metamorphosed sedimentary rocks (hornfels) surround the diabase intrusion. A topographic break separates low-lying, unaltered Passaic Formation rocks from more resistant hornfels and diabase at higher elevations. Dunning and Hodych (1990) and Husch (1990) proposed that the Mount Rose – Rocky Hill diabase body is a lateral continuation of the Palisades sill.

The Trenton Prong in the Princeton area is part of a larger metamorphic rock belt that plunges northeastward from Pennsylvania into New Jersey, where It pinches out at the surface directly to the east, in the bordering Hightstown 7½-minute quadrangle. Trenton Prong rocks include felsic, intermediate and mafic metamorphic varieties of probable Ordovician, Mesoproterozoic, and Neoproterozoic ages (Volkert and Drake, 1993). The Wissahickon is dated at ~480 Ma based on U-Pb radioisotopes (Bosbyshell and others, 2001). Fine-grained diabase dikes locally intrude the older metamorphic rocks. These dikes are similar in composition and petrography to diabase dikes in the New Jersey Highlands. They may have been emplaced during rifting and breakup of the Rodinian supercontinent about 600 Ma (Volkert and Puffer, 1995; Volkert, 2004). Weathered float at the land surface and a limited number of natural outcrops and excavated exposures faciliated delineation of its contact with older rocks of the Trenton Prong.

Erosion of rocks of the Newark Basin and Trenton Prong since the Cretaceous has supplied sediment to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. These sediments include the Potomac Formation and the overlying Magothy Formation. The Potomac Formation consists of interbedded sand and clay laid down in a coastal river system in the Late Cretaceous, about 95 Ma. The Potomac sand and clay are typically red and white in color, due to weathering and soil development on the river plains in which they were deposited. The Magothy Formation also consists of interbedded sand, silt, and clay, although its sand is generally finer than that of the Potomac, and its clay and silt are more thinly bedded and less abundant. The Magothy is more commonly gray because it was not exposed to weathering and soil development. It was laid down in nearshore marine settings in the Late Cretaceous, about 85 Ma. Additional marine deposits were laid down during numerous sea-level highstands through the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, probably until the Middle Miocene (about 10 Ma). These deposits almost certainly covered the entire Princeton quadrangle and extended well to the north and west of the present Coastal Plain. Subsequently they were completely eroded by rivers, except for the remaining Magothy and Potomac sediments, during the late Miocene and Pliocene (10 to 2 Ma). Surficial deposits, shown here by an overprint pattern where thicker than 10 feet, include alluvial, wetland, hillslope, and

In the Trenton Prong, the Huntingdon Valley Fault is a major thrust fault interpreted to be of Paleozoic age. It strikes southwest-northeast and separates the Ordovician Wissahickon Formation in the hanging wall from Mesoproterozoic and Neoproterozoic (?) rocks in the footwall. The footwall rocks are in a secondary thrust-fault slice that splays off the Huntingdon fault to the east. The Huntingdon Valley Fault plunges eastward beneath rocks of the Newark basin and is interpreted to correlate with the Cameron's Line thrust fault in the Manhattan Prong (Volkert and others, 1996). Rocks in the Newark basin have been tilted, fractured, folded, and faulted (Schlische, 1992; Olsen and others, 1996). Most tectonic deformation is probably of Late Triassic to Middle Jurassic age (Lucas and others, 1988; de Boer and Clifford, 1988). In the Princeton quadrangle, these rocks chiefly dip gently and uniformly to the north and northwest, except near faults where they dip moderately to steeply, or where they are locally folded into southeast-dipping beds. Faults within the Mesozoic rocks in the Princeton quadrangle are enigmatic. Abundant, complex fault movements are evident at stratigraphic levels in and near the Lockatong Formation, but outcrops are scarce enough to obscure evidence as to whether these faults link with larger faults in adjacent areas that are covered with surficial material. Normal fault slip is seen in borehole-televiewer images of the Lockatong Formation north of Lawrenceville, but complex, reverse slip is documented at other nearby faults near Princeton, where the Stockton through Passaic formations are arched and locally faulted and folded. Herman and others (2010) interpreted these structures as part of a larger, regional oblique-slip transform-fault system that probably developed during late stages of basin extension. However it is also possible that some of these faults were reactivated during late compression and inversion of the basin. Rocks of the Trenton Prong and Newark basin are highly fractured. Three sets of systematic extension fractures (joints)

cut through the New Jersey part of the basin (Herman, 2005 and 2009). Together they record a counterclockwise rotation of the extensional stress field from northwest-southeast to west-east which developed during the extensional phases of basin development. The earliest of these joint sets, striking northeast southwest and complimentary cross joints, are most abundant in the Princeton quadrangle. The latest set, striking north south with complimentary east-west cross joints is



	DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS
	Surficial Deposits
	(Quaternary and Pliocene) Unidivided surficial sediments more than 10 feet thick.
· · · ·	Coastal Plain
Kmg	Magothy Formation (Upper Cretaceous) - Quartz sand, fine-to-medium-grained, sparsely coarse-grained; and clay and silt, thin-bedded. Sand is white, yellow, light gray where weathered, gray where unweathered. Clay and silt are white, yellow, brown where weathered, gray to black where unweathered. Sand includes some lignite, pyrite, and minor mica. Clay and silt include abundant mica and lignite. As much as 30 feet thick. Late Cretaceous (Turonian-Coniacian) in age, based on pollen (Christopher, 1979, 1982; Miller and others, 2004).
КрЗ	Potomac Formation (Upper Cretaceous) - Quartz sand, medium-grained to very coarse grained, sparsely fine-grained, and clay and silt, thick- to thin-bedded. Sand is white, yellow, red, brown, pink where weathered, light gray where unweathered. Clay and silt are white, red, yellow, brown, pink where weathered, gray where unweathered. Weathered clay and silt more abundant than the unweathered. As much as 150 feet thick. The Potomac Formation in the Princeton quadrangle is equivalent to the Potomac Formation unit 3 (Doyle and Robbins, 1977) based on pollen (Owens and others, 1998) and is of Late Cretaceous (early Cenomanian) age.
	Piedmont
Jd	Diabase (Lower Jurassic) - Fine-grained to very-fine-grained dikes (?) and sills; and medium-grained, discordant, sheet-like intrusion of dark-gray to dark greenish-gray, sub-ophitic diabase; massive-textured, hard, and sparsely fractured. Composed dominantly of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, and opaque minerals. Contacts are typically fine-grained, display chilled, sharp margins adjacent to enclosing sedimentary rock. Underlies Mount Rose where it occurs as a sill that cuts across section in the northwest of the quadrangle. Regional thickness of the diabase is approximately 1,325 feet.
JTep JTepg	Passaic Formation - (Lower Jurassic and Upper Triassic) (Olsen, 1980a) - Interbedded sequence of reddish-brown to maroon and purple, fine-grained sandstone, siltstone, shaly siltstone, silty mudstone and mudstone, separated by interbedded olive-gray, dark-gray, and/or black siltstone, silty mudstone, shale and lesser silty argillite. Reddish-brown siltstone is medium- to fine-grained, thin- to medium-bedded, planar to cross-bedded, micaceous, and locally contains mud cracks, ripple cross-lamination, root casts and load casts. Shaly siltstone, silty mudstone, and mudstone form rhythmically-fining-upward sequences as much as 15 feet thick. They are fine-grained, very thin- to thin-bedded, planar to ripple cross-laminated, fissile, locally bioturbated, and locally contain evaporite minerals. Gray bed sequences (JTrpg) are medium- to fine-grained, thin- to medium-bedded, planar to cross-bedded siltstone and silty mudstone. Gray to black mudstone, shale and argillite are laminated to thin-bedded, and commonly grade upward into desiccated purple to reddish-brown siltstone to mudstone. Where possible gray sequences have been correlated based on downhole optical televiewer data in Pennington to individual members designated by letters as described in Olsen and others, (1996).Thickness of gray-bed sequences ranges from less than a foot to several feet. Unit is approximately 11,000 feet thick in the map area.
Τεl	Lockatong Formation (Upper Triassic) (Kummel, 1897) - Cyclically deposited sequences of mainly gray to greenish-gray, and in upper part, locally reddish-brown siltstone to silty argillite and dark-gray to black shale and mudstone. Siltstone is medium- to fine-grained, thin-bedded, planar to cross-bedded, with mud cracks, ripple cross-laminations and locally abundant pyrite. Shale and mudstone are very thin-bedded to thinly laminated, platy, locally containing desiccation features. Lower contact gradational into Stockton Formation and placed at base of lowest continuous black siltstone bed (Olsen, 1980a). Maximum thickness of unit regionally is about 2,200 feet (Parker and Houghton, 1990a, 1990b).
TRS	Stockton Formation (Upper Triassic) (Kummel, 1897) - Unit is interbedded sequence of gray, grayish-brown, or slightly reddish-brown, medium- to fine-grained, thin- to thick-bedded, poorly sorted to clast-imbricated conglomerate, planar to trough cross-bedded, and ripple cross-laminated arkosic sandstone, and reddish-brown clayey fine-grained, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Coarser units commonly occur as lenses and are locally graded. Fining upwards sequences are common, the finer grained beds are bioturbated. Conglomerate and sandstone layers are deeply weathered and more common in the lower half; siltstone and mudstone are generally less weathered and more common in upper half. Lower contact is an erosional unconformity. Thickness is approximately 4,500 feet.
	Trenton Prong
Ow	Wissahickon Formation (Lower to Middle Ordovician?) – Medium- to coarse-grained, gray to pinkish-gray, foliated and layered schist and gneiss in alternating layers. Unit composed of quartz, plagioclase, microcline, and biotite. Has locally undergone partial melting, forming veinitic migmatites of granitic composition. Unit does not crop out in the map area, but is known from artificial exposures and borings.
Zv	Metabasalt (Neoproterozoic?) - Intercalated sequence of weakly metamorphosed greenstone and greenschist. Greenstone is a dark greenish-gray, nonfoliated, fine-grained rock composed essentially of plagioclase, altered clinopyroxene, and small blebs of sulfide. Schist is a fine- to medium-grained, grayish-green, layered rock composed of quartz, plagioclase, and chlorite. Locally contains garnet and thin conformable, sulfide-rich layers. Cut by clots and veins of blue quartz. Unit does not crop out in the map area, but is known from artificial exposures and borings north of Central Mercer County Park.
Ygb	Gabbro and rocks of intermediate composition (Mesoproterozoic?) - Medium-grained, medium-gray to very dark greenish-gray, locally greasy-lustered, foliated rocks composed principally of plagioclase (oligoclase to andesine), hornblende, clinopyroxene, and opaque oxides. Locally contain hypersthene, garnet, biotite, sulfide, and quartz. Typically contain thin, conformable layers of hornblende-plagioclase amphibolite. Locally have been injected and migmatized by thin, conformable layers of felsic magma composed of quartz and feldspar. Principal variants of this unit are gabbro and/or diorite, andesite, trachy-andesite, and basaltic andesite.
Yg	Gneiss, granofels, and migmatite (Mesoproterozoic?) – Medium- to coarse-grained, buff, tan, light gray, greenish-gray, or pinkish-white, foliated and/or layered gneiss, granofels, and schist that include a wide variety of rock types, principally of felsic composition. Composed of guartz, microcline, plagioclase, clinopyroxene, hornblende, and biotite. Many rocks

magma. Undivided metamorphic units (Ordovician to Proterozoic) - used only in cross section OYu

contain characteristic blue quartz. Some units are intruded by a medium- to coarse-grained granitoid of alaskitic

composition. Unit represents a sequence of metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks injected and migmatized by felsic

# **EXPLANATION OF MAP SYMBOLS**

?	Contact - Dashed where approximately located; queried where uncertain; dotted where concealed.
?-	Fault - Dashed where approximately located; queried where uncertain; dotted where concealed.
	Normal fault - U, upthrown side; D, downthrown side. Ball shows direction of dip.
D	Reverse fault - U, upthrown side; D, downthrown side, triangles show direction of dip.
$\rightarrow$ U	Strike-slip fault, Arrows show relative motion.
<u>←</u>	High-angle fault of unknown movement.
67	Minor inclined fault observed in outcrop or with Downhole Optical Televiewer - showing strike and dip.
	Folds
1	Anticline - showing trace of axial surface, direction of limbs, and direction of plunge.
t	Syncline - showing trace of axial surface, direction of limbs, and direction of plunge.
- 1	Planar features
11	Strike and dip of inclined beds.
9	Strike and dip of magmatic flow structure in igneous rocks.
69	Strike and dip of foliation in metamorphic rocks.
	Other features
	Bedrock-controlled strike ridge (from Stanford, 1993).
$\approx$	Abandoned rock quarry.
+	Location of Mercer County Park well
	Downhole Optical Televiewer interpretation. Marker beds identified in borehole projected to land surface based on dip of bedding in well. Data obtained by Opitical Televiewer. Red dot shows well location. Red boxes represent red horizons within the otherwise gray-colored formation



Rose diagrams of structural data within the map area. Data depicted consist of strike orientation of bedding and fracture planes. Bins are 10° sectors and numbers on X and Y axes represent per cent of total data population. Trenton Prong rocks are not shown due to paucity of outcrop locations.

## BEDROCK GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE PRINCETON QUADRANGLE, MERCER AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NEW JERSEY **OPEN-FILE MAP OFM 93**

Table 1. Lithologic log from the Mercer County Park Well. Drilled in May 1987 by the New Jersey Geological Survey and logged in November 1987 by R.A. Volkert and S.D. Stanford.

Depth	Lithologic description
0-72'	Surficial sand and gravel
72' – 128'	Decomposed fine- to medium-grained biotite-quartz-feldspar gneiss and possible trace garnet. Some seams composed of quartz and feldspar that appear to be local melt .
128'-138'	More decomposed biotite-quartz-feldspar gneiss. Contact with medium-grained, massive textured, indistinctly foliated, tan, clinopyroxene- quartz-microperthite granulite.
138'-153'	Medium-grained, foliated, massive-textured, light-gray-weathering, gneiss composed of hornblende, clinopyroxene, quartz, plagioclase, biotite, and trace sulfide. Quartz is colorless to medium blue. Zone of ductile deformation from 147'-148' is overprinted by moderately-dipping to high-angle brittle fractures mineralized by quartz and plagioclase. Small offset (4mm) along one fracture with normal movement sense.
153'-169'	Same as above. Also cut by high-angle fractures.
169'-187'	Same as above. Some variation in texture and mafic content. Foliation dips at a moderate angle.
187'-200'	Gneiss, same as above. Brittle deformation zone at 191' with abundant chlorite-coated fractures.
200'-213'	Same gneiss. Contains thin (1 cm), conformable layers of quartz and plagioclase. Some small mafic clots of green clinopyroxene surrounded by rims of black amphibole at approximately 203 <sup>c</sup> .
213'-224'	Same gneiss to 216.5', below medium- to coarse-grained, pinkish-white, nonfoliated quartz microperthite alaskite containing blue quartz. Same gneiss from 222-224' but somewhat more leucocratic.
224'-242'	Same gneiss to 226', then abrupt change to weathered, dark greenish-gray, aphanitic rock composed of plagioclase, chlorite, trace sulfide. Appears to be a mafic dike (probably Neoproterozoic) intruding the basement sequence. Dike is coarser grained from 228' to end of run. Gneiss from 226'-228' may be the chilled margin.
242'-260'	Same coarser-grained dike to 251' then finer-grained to 258' and aphanitic from 258-260', probably reflecting other chilled margin. Cut by several high-angle brittle fractures coated by chlorite.
260'-270'	Fault contact at 260' between aphanitic dike above and gneiss below. Gneiss is brittly deformed from 260'-261' and much less deformed from 261'-270'. Gneiss is medium-grained, foliated, light-greenish-gray, and

composed of hornblende, clinopyroxene, quartz, plagioclase, and biotite. Foliation dips at 35° to 40°.

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