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New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Open-File Geologic Map 311

Geologic Map of the Jumping Spring 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Eddy County, New Mexico

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Comments to Map Users

A geologic map displays information on the distribution, nature, orientation, and age relationships of rock and deposits and the occurrence of structural features. Geologic and fault contacts are irregular surfaces that form boundaries between different types or ages of units. Data depicted on this geologic quadrangle map may be based on any of the following: reconnaissance field geologic mapping, a compilation of published and unpublished work, and photogeologic interpretation. Locations of contacts are not surveyed but are plotted by interpretation of the position of a given contact onto a topographic base map; therefore, the accuracy of contact locations depends on the scale of mapping and the interpretation of the geologist(s). Any enlargement of this map could cause misunderstanding in the detail of mapping and may result in erroneous interpretations. Site-specific conditions should be verified by detailed surface mapping or subsurface exploration. Topographic and cultural changes may not be shown due to recent development.

Cross sections are constructed based upon the interpretations of the author made from geologic mapping and available geophysical and subsurface (drill hole) data. Cross sections should be used as an aid to understanding the general geologic framework of the map area and not be the sole source of information for use in locating or designing wells, buildings, roads, or other human-made structures.

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Correlation of Map Units

CENOZOIC
Quaternary
Holocene

MESOZOIC
Cretaceous
Upper
Lower

PALEOZOIC
Permian
Carboniferous
Langiate
Middle
Upper
Lower
Mississippian

Eolian, alluvial, and colluvial deposits
Alluvium in active drainages (Holocene)—Alluvium, sand, mud, and gravel associated with active drainages, including deposits underlying low terraces adjacent to incised channels. Sediment is generally pale-tan, brown, or reddish-brown silt and sand. Includes significant amounts of pale-colored gyttse in some areas. Deposits are generally less than 2 meters thick.

Accumulations of eolian and alluvial silt, sand, clay, and gravel in closed or nearly closed depressions (Holocene)—Map unit generally consists of pale-tan to brown silt and sand with minor amounts of locally derived coarser alluvium. Many depressions likely represent areas that have undergone subsidence caused by the dissolution of underlying Permian evaporites. Depressions are aligned in some areas to form subtle, linear drainages, making the distinction between fills in active drainages (unit **Qay**) and depressions (unit **Qae**) somewhat arbitrary. Depressions fill range from decimeters to perhaps a few meters or more in thickness.

Windblown silt and fine sand, fine- to coarse-grained slope-wash alluvium, and minor amounts of rocky colluvium and regolith, generally forming a thin mantle over weathered Castle-Salado and Rustler bedrock units (Holocene)—Siliclastic deposits range in texture from silt-sandy mud to gravely sand, and are generally pale-tan, brown, or pale-red in color. This lithologically heterogeneous unit includes areas surfaced by pale-gray gyttse which may represent accumulations of gypsum dust and/or weathering of near-surface Permian gypsum bedrock. Rocky colluvial deposits bordering remnants of Rustler carbonate strata are locally present, and weathered residuum on top of lower Rustler Formation, red mud and calcium sulfate, are apparent on aerial photographs in the vicinity of Cottonwood Draw in the northeastern part of the map area. Although a significant proportion of the surficial cover is likely composed of eolian sediment, extensive deposits of eolian sand, and are not present in the map area. Deposits generally range from less than one meter to a few meters in thickness.

Valley-floor sand, mud, gravel, and gyttse underlying flood plains and low terraces of larger drainages (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—In general, deposits are relatively fine-grained and likely contain significant amounts of wind-blown dust trapped by grasses and shrubs, together with pale-colored gyttseous sediment, reddish-brown mud derived from the lower part of the Rustler Formation in the eastern part of the map area, and coarser-grained gravelly deposits along the Black River. Small unmapped exposures of weathered Castle-Salado gypsum are locally exposed along cutbanks and channel floors in gullied and scoured reaches; some of these exposures rarely include blocks of Rustler strata let down by solution subsidence. Ephemeral seeps and areas subject to flooding are apparent in local reaches of the larger drainages. **Qae** deposits along the Black River are generally light-brown sand and mud underlying narrow, vegetated flood plains a few meters above the present channel. Coarser-grained and commonly cemented gravel deposits carried in during floods are also present. Valley-floor fills are generally on the order of a few meters thick or less.

Valley-floor gyttse along major drainages (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—A relatively porous aggregate of gypsum silt, sand, and gravel in a fine-grained gyttseous matrix derived from weathering and transport of Permian bedrock gypsum. Unit is white to light-gray, is generally thinly mantled by brown eolian dust, and may exhibit a durable surficial crust. Outcrop exposures commonly reveal a basal, one or two meters, containing rounded pebbles of white gypsum, commonly cross-stratified and intercalated with pale-brown siliclastic sediment, overlain by a meter or more of massive fine-grained gyttse that may represent eolian deposition. **Qvg** deposits are present in the map area along Hay Hollow, but are present in other major drainages and tributaries to the east and west of the Jumping Spring quadrangle. Surface accumulations of gyttse that occupy higher positions on the landscape are included in map unit **Qae**.

Geologic Cross Section A-A'
(No vertical exaggeration)

Description of Map Units

Qbr Black River valley-border alluvium (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—Composite map unit consisting of alluvium and colluvium along the Black River, may locally overlie somewhat older alluvial-plain deposits, and is inset against bedrock gypsum along the southern side of the drainage. Surface deposits largely consist of tan and brown mud, sand, and gravel. Coarse deposits are sub-angular to rounded pebbles and cobbles of Permian carbonate and minor sandstone derived from the Guadalupe Mountains to the west. Exposures of cemented gravel (sparse in the map area but increasingly common along incised reaches of the Black River downstream) contain rounded, siliceous pebbles likely recycled from Cretaceous conglomeratic strata that once covered the region. **Qbr** deposits underlie terraces up to 10 meters above the Black River flood plain in the map area. Gypsum bedrock is locally exposed along a short reach of the Black River in the map area, where it is overlain by several meters of unit **Qbr** mud, sand, pebbly sand, and lenticular beds of gravel.

Qae Accumulations of eolian and alluvial silt, sand, clay, and gravel in closed or nearly closed depressions (Holocene)—Map unit generally consists of pale-tan to brown silt and sand with minor amounts of locally derived coarser alluvium. Many depressions likely represent areas that have undergone subsidence caused by the dissolution of underlying Permian evaporites. Depressions are aligned in some areas to form subtle, linear drainages, making the distinction between fills in active drainages (unit **Qay**) and depressions (unit **Qae**) somewhat arbitrary. Depressions fill range from decimeters to perhaps a few meters or more in thickness.

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Geologic Cross Section A-A'

CENOZOIC ERATHHEM
Quaternary System
Anthropogenic
Disturbed areas (Modern)—Disturbed areas (paved roads).

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