



This map was prepared to assist potential users of industrial and agricultural water in the general area of the Permian basin located in southeastern New Mexico. It depicts the varying quality that may be available from aquifers in the Guadalupian Series of Permian age. Water containing relatively high concentrations of chloride ions (10,000 to more than 150,000 milligrams per litre) is found in rocks of the Guadalupian Series on the Northwest Shelf northwest of Hobbs, New Mexico, on the Central Basin platform, and in the Delaware basin. Conversely, water containing relatively low chloride-ion concentrations (less than 10,000 milligrams per litre) is associated with the Permian aquifer, the San Andres Limestone, and the Artesia Group along the margins of the Delaware basin and at the north and south ends of the Central Basin platform. Fingers of the best quality of water extend into the Permian basin to the north and east from the Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico, and to the north away from the Glass Mountains, Texas.

The quality of ground water found in rocks of the Guadalupian Series in the western part of the Permian basin is controlled primarily by hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer and the proximity to the outcrop which is present in the western and southern part of the basin. Leaching of soluble minerals from the Guadalupian Series at the surface has enhanced the hydraulic conductivity where these rocks are exposed west of the Pecos River on the Northwest Shelf and in the Guadalupe Mountains. Fresh water enters the Guadalupian Series at outcrops in the Guadalupe, Delaware, Apache, and Glass Mountains, and at other exposures along the western and southern edges of the Permian basin. The fresh water has replaced saline water in the aquifer in amounts proportional to the hydraulic conductivity of the aquifers that have been developed by leaching of the strata. Relatively fresh water may be found resting upon saline water, as in the general case west of the Pecos River between Artesia and Carlsbad, or it may be encountered in situations where it is overlain and (or) surrounded by more saline water, as, for example, in the vicinity of Carlsbad and in the San Andres Limestone and Grayburg Formation south of Hobbs, New Mexico. Throughout the area, water with a relatively low salinity can be found interfingering with water that is relatively high in salinity. This relationship has been shown to be a dependable qualitative indicator of the relative differences in hydraulic conductivity of the rocks.

The data were obtained from many sources including various exploration, production, and service companies within the petroleum industry and State and Federal agencies. The analyses represent samples of water collected over a period of approximately 45 years from 1926 to 1971 but are believed to accurately depict, on a regional basis, the water now present in the Permian (Guadalupian) age sedimentary rocks.

The two examples below illustrate use of the map. Water containing less than 5,000 milligrams per litre chloride is available near Carlsbad, in an arcuate strip parallel to the Permian aquifer, and in narrow bands at either end of the Central Basin platform. By closer examination of the data points, the individual aquifers that would contain water of this quality can be identified from the plotted data points. On the other hand, an exploration for concentrated brines would be restricted to areas where the Guadalupian rocks are known to contain nearly saturated brines, as in the Delaware Mountain Group in eastern Loving County, Texas.

EXPLANATION

Position of Permian aquifer

Approximate position of extreme shelfward edge

Approximate position of basinal edge

50

Line of equal chloride-ion concentration, in thousands of milligrams per litre. Dashed where inferred. Based on lowest concentration shown or interpreted to be present. Within any area delineated by two lines, ground water having a chloride-ion concentration indicated by the line values is probably present in at least one water-bearing zone; ground water having a higher chloride-ion concentration than that indicated by the contour values is generally present also.

Stratigraphic code representing name of the formation from which water sample has been collected. The stratigraphic codes are listed in order of stratigraphic position, youngest first.

Well penetrating rocks of Permian (Guadalupian) age

7500

12,000

DLWR

170,000

Code	Stratigraphic Codes
CPAQ	Capitan aquifer
DLWR	Delaware Mountain Group
GBSA	Grayburg Formation-San Andres Limestone undivided
GRBG	Grayburg Formation
QUEN	Queen Formation
SADR	San Andres Limestone
SVRV	Seven Rivers Formation
TNSL	Tansill Formation
YTES	Yates Formation

