Modifications of stratigraphic nomenclature in New Mexico for the year 1980

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New Mexico Geology, v. 3, n. 3 pp. 47-48, Print ISSN: 0196-948X, Online ISSN: 2837-6420.
https://doi.org/10.58799/NMG-v3n3.47

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Published quarterly since 1979, NMG transitioned to an online format in 2015, and is currently being issued twice a year. NMG papers are available for download at no charge from our website. You can also subscribe to receive email notifications when new issues are published.

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No new geologic units were formally named in New Mexico during 1980. However, age assignments, areal distribution, contacts, or new type sections were modified and clarified for the following established units: Bloodgood Canyon Tuff (1), Cutler Formation (2), Dakota Sandstone and Mancos Shale (3), Juana Lopez Member of Mancos Shale (4), Pojoaque Member of Tesuque Formation (5), and Salado Formation (6). General locations of reports in which these units are discussed are shown on the index map. Only published reports are included in this compilation. Abstracts, theses, open-file reports, and guidebooks are not considered suitable formats for defining new stratigraphic units or for modifying existing ones.

The geologic units are listed alphabetically. The first paragraph under each heading after the full reference summarizes what modification was made and how that modification compares with most recent use. A second paragraph, if one is included, is a comment by the compiler.

Red beds called Cutler Formation and Cutler-Abo sedimentary unit (or sequence) in El Cobre Canyon, Rio Arriba County, north-central New Mexico contain plant fossils of Pennsylvanian (Des Moinesian or Missourian) age and vertebrate fossils of Pennsylvanian (possibly Des Moinesian and Missourian) to Permian (Wolfcampian) age.

Comment: Both the Cutler and Abo have previously been assigned to the Lower Permian. The Cutler at its type locality in southwest Colorado is still considered Permian. Cutler has been mapped in El Cobre Canyon and at other localities in Rio Arriba County (Wood and Northrop, 1946; Dane and Bachman, 1965; Santos and others, 1975). The Cutler-Madera contact (or Permian-Pennsylvanian contact) has been arbitrarily placed at the top of the first limestone below a thick sequence of red-brown sandstone, arkose mudstone, and siltstone. No limestones were observed in El Cobre Canyon according to Langston (in Fracasso, 1980, p. 1). Smith and others (1961, p. 7) reported a deeply scourcd contact between their Cutler and the plant-bearing Pennsylvanian rocks in El Cobre Canyon. Some doubt exists as to whether all these beds called Cutler in El Cobre Canyon belong only to the Cutler Formation.

Bloodgood Canyon Tuff
In the Mogollon-Datil volcanic field a K-Ar age of 27.4 ± 0.9 m.y. and a fission track age of 27.4 ± 3.4 m.y. on zircon was obtained on Bloodgood Canyon Tuff, an ash-flow tuff sheet. These dates give the formation an Oligocene age, rather than Oligocene to Miocene age as previously thought (Elston and others, 1976).

Cutler Formation
Fracasso, M. A., 1980, Age of the Permo-Carboniferous Cutler Formation vertebrate fauna from El Cobre Canyon, New Mexico: Journal of Paleontology, v. 54, no. 6, p. 1,237-1,244

Juana Lopez Member of Mancos Shale

The type section of the Juana Lopez Member (middle Turonian) is recognized as being in sec. 33, T. 15 N., R. 7 E., following E. G. Kauffman (Dane and others, 1966), rather than being in sec. 32, T. 15 N., R. 7 E. as originally designated by C. H. Rankin in 1944. The lower contact of the Juana Lopez is modified from Rankin's and Kauffman's interpretations to include within the member 96 ft of dark-gray, noncalcareous shale with calcarenite as beds and lenses that lies beneath the 10-ft-thick calcarenite previously used as the base of Juana Lopez. The redefinition of the Juana Lopez by Hook and Cobban is in close agreement with the lithology of the sequence assigned to the member at the reference section (sec. 14, T. 19 N., R. 1 W.) designated by Dane and others (1966) near Cuba in the San Juan Basin. The Juana Lopez overlies the lower member and underlies the upper member of the Mancos.

Pojoaque Member of Tesuque Formation

Miocene dates of 11.4 ± 1.1 m.y. on zircon and 8.0 ± 1.2 m.y. on hydrated glass shards were obtained from ash in the Pojoaque Member and 9.4 ± 0.9 m.y. on zircon and 6.2 ± 0.6 m.y. on hydrated glass in ash interlayered with the Pojoaque in the Española Basin. Pojoaque was considered upper Miocene and lower Pliocene by Galusha and Blick, who named it in 1971.

Salado Formation
Register, J. K., and Brookins, D. G., 1980, Rb-Sr isochron age of evaporite minerals from the Salado Formation (Late Permian), southeastern New Mexico: Isochron/West, no. 29, p. 39-42

Dates of 214 ± 15 m.y. were obtained on sylvite-halite, anhydrite, and polyhalite in 41 samples from 5 drill holes in the Salado Formation. According to Register and Brookins (1980), "These dates . . . may reflect either final potash ore formation . . . or post-sedimentation, diageneric-epigenetic events lasting . . . " to the Triassic. Salado samples were collected from drill holes north of 32° W. and east of 104° N. within the dashed boundary line shown.

Acknowledgments—E. H. Baltz and R. B. O'Sullivan of the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, critically reviewed this paper.

References

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Geographic names

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Mockingbird Gap—pass, elevation 1,631 m (5,350 ft), connects the Tularosa Valley and Jornada del Muerto between the Oscura and San Andres Mountains 54 km (34 mi) southeast of San Antonio, Socorro County, New Mexico; secs. 5, 8, 16, and 17, T. 9 S., R. 5 E.; New Mexico Principal Meridian 33° 34' 00" N., 106° 27' 15" W. (south end), 33° 32' 10" N., 106° 26' 15" W. (south end).

Ritas Draw—watercourse, 17.7 km (11 mi) long in Tularosa Valley, heads at 32° 58' 25" N., 105° 57' 45" W., trends southwest to join Malone Draw at the head of the Lost River 14.5 km (9 mi) west of Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico; sec. 27, T. 16 S., R. 9 E.; New Mexico Principal Meridian 32° 54' 02" N., 106° 06' 48" W.

by Stephen J. Frost, NMBMRR Correspondent

Correction

In the May 1981 issue of New Mexico Geology, under the column on geographic names “Compana” should have read “Campina.”

MINING REGISTRATIONS (continued)

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<td>Operator—Holiday, G.L.G. Development Corp., P.O. Box 1036, Socorro, NM; Gen. Mgr.: Glen E. Stevenson, 3 mi east of Magdalena, NM, phone: 834-2512; Person in charge: Jim Haines, Los Lunas, NM</td>
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<td>Operator—Royal John group, Ree-Co Minerals, Inc., 2527 Virginia NE, Suite H, Albuquerque, NM 87110; Gen. Mgr.: Hal McGarr, same address, ph: 293-1520; Person in charge: Bakke &amp; Assoc., same address and phone; Gen. Sept.: Burt Bakke, same address and phone; Other official: Oliver C. Reese, same address and phone</td>
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