

#### IGQ Rome-SG Sheet 1 of 2

# Purpose

Detailed geologic mapping of the Rome 7.5-minute Quadrangle was completed as part of a multi-year mapping program by the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to provide the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) with updated geologic information to aid decisions regarding upgrade, route selection, and an environmental impact assessment for State Highway Route 29 between Chillicothe and its junction with U.S. Interstate 180. This work also supports the ISGS geologic mapping program to produce 1:24,000-scale three-dimensional maps of the glacial geology from land surface to the top of bedrock for the entire state. This information will be accessible to decision makers to address a wide variety of local and countywide issues that include protecting groundwater, locating new municipal water wells, designing and constructing foundations and structures, identifying potential aggregate resources, and preserving natural areas.

The geologic materials displayed on the land surface and in cross section are the source of important earth and water resources. Some materials may present hazards, while others favor highway construction and development. This map and cross section provide the information necessary to identify opportunities and limitations for future development as well as to determine the likely consequences of past and future land-use decisions. This mapping serves as a basis for the production of derivative maps such as assessment of groundwater resource potential, mineral resources, and geologic hazards.

### Introduction

The Rome Quadrangle is located along the middle part of the Illinois River valley in central Illinois and encompasses parts of northeastern Peoria County and southern Marshall County that include the Town of Chillicothe, the Villages of Rome and North Hampton, and other unincorporated areas (fig. 1). The map area is located entirely within the watershed of the Illinois River and is drained by the Senachwine Creek, Hallock Creek, and Dickson Run. The land surface ranges in elevation (above sea level) from a minimum of approximately 440 feet at the Illinois River to greater than 820 feet just north of the Peoria-Marshall county line in the western part of the quadrangle. The map area contains a variety of landforms including morainal uplands, steeply sloping bluffs, and flat to undulating floodplains and terraces.

Throughout the last 1.8 million years during the Quaternary Period, the landscape in the map area was extensively modified by the combined action of glaciers, water, and wind. Preglacial rivers shaped the uppermost surface of the relatively soft shale bedrock into gently rolling uplands cut by a deep and wide bedrock valley. An extensive preglacial drainage system that included the Ancient Mississippi River was formed in central Illinois (fig. 2). A portion of this drainage system flowed through the Wyoming Bedrock Valley (fig. 3), and this area was repeatedly overridden by glaciers flowing from the east and northeast into Illinois through the Lake Michigan basin and areas farther east. Deposits of the Wisconsin and Illinois Episodes and intervening interglacial periods compose the landforms observed at land surface and those now buried in the subsurface (shown on cross section A-A').





**Figure 1** Surficial geology over shaded relief map (derived from a digital elevation model) of the Illinois River valley and adjacent areas of central Illinois. Map modified from Illinois State Geological Survey (2000) and Luman et al. (2003).





Bedrock Elevation	0	1 2 3
feet above mean sea level)		MILES
675		Podroak Data Tura
650		Deulock Data Type
625		Outcrop
600	A	Outcrop in field notes (ISGS archives
575	۲	Water boring
550	۲	Engineering boring
525	۲	Coal boring
500	۲	Other boring, includes oil and gas
475		
450	A - A'	Line of cross section
425		Axis of bedrock valley
400		

**Figure 3** Bedrock topography of the Rome Quadrangle. Modified from Berg et al. (2009).

climate and reduced discharge and sediment load, the Illinois River began meandering in its oversized valley, creating its modern channel, point bars, natural levees, backwater lakes, and floodplain. Gradually, glacial sand and gravel were reworked and covered with overbank silt and clay, while tributary streams built alluvial fans into the valley. Digital soils data compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), were the basis of a preliminary surficial geologic map. The data were provided to the ISGS by the NRCS for this project and cover portions of Peoria County and Marshall County. The soils data were digitized from maps published in county reports by Walker (1992) and Teeter and Walker (2002).

These county maps of soil series were combined and generalized into soil parent material classes by Berg et al (2004). This information provides the following unit boundaries: thick loess, thin loess, and alluvium. Previous geomorphic mapping in the Illinois River valley by Hajic (2000), and new mapping by the author from aerial photographs, were used to modify parent material boundaries.

Geologic information from field descriptions of natural and man-made exposures, engineering borehole and water-well drillers' logs, downhole geophysical logs, archived maps, and topographic maps were used to better define geologic map unit boundaries. Software was used to compile and analyze field data, to prepare the map, and publish in digital format one northwest-southeast cross section labeled A–A'. The cross section was constructed to portray the sequence of Quaternary deposits in the subsurface above bedrock. A record of geologic materials encountered at each site is available from the ISGS Geological Records Unit and http://www. isgs.illinois.edu/maps-data-pub/isgs-quads/r/rome.shtml.

For the surficial geology maps of the Rome Quadrangle and Middle Illinois River valley (McKay et al. 2010), some geologic map units include materials that were mapped as separate polygons on maps of adjoining quadrangles. For example, on the surficial geology map of the Spring Bay Quadrangle (Stumpf and Weibel 2005), the Tiskilwa till is mapped separately from colluvial slopewash and gravity-flow deposits classified to the Peyton Formation that are found on and at the base of hillslopes. In the Rome Quadrangle, Peyton Formation deposits are also found in the same topographic position, but are mapped as part of the Tiskilwa till unit.

# Map Unit Characterization and Stratigraphic Relationships

The surficial geology map and accompanying cross section delineate geologic materials (formally called lithostratigraphic units) that are classified by their lithology (sediment type or rock type) and stratigraphic position. The stratigraphic nomenclature used here is from Willman and Frye (1970) and Hansel and Johnson (1996). Lithostratigraphic units in the Illinois River valley area have a complex but mappable pattern of occurrence.

In the Rome Quadrangle, the sediments deposited during glacial and nonglacial times of the Quaternary Period range in thickness from less than 5 feet to 330 feet above bedrock. Multiple diamicton units from the Illinois and Wisconsin Episode glaciations have been differentiated. At the surface, the Tiskilwa till comprises the steep bluffs along the Illinois River valley and its tributary valleys, the moraines, and some lower areas between moraines. Windblown sand and silt (dunes) are found primarily on the Illinois River floodplain, but locally are present as small hills on the uplands. Deposits of modern river and overbank sediment and of organicrich silt and sand are also present on the floodplain. Organic-rich sediments also occur in deposits that infill depressions on the uplands.

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The present landscape was shaped by glaciers and meltwater associated with the latest (Wisconsin Episode) glaciation. When the last of several glaciers flowed into the valley about 24,800 calendar years before present (cal yr B.P.) (McKay and Berg 2008), drainage along the the Ancient Mississippi River was blocked and diverted to western Illinois where it occupied and enlarged the valley of the present Mississippi River (fig. 2). During subsequent glaciations, the river sediments deposited by the Ancient Mississippi River were nearly completely buried by glacial deposits.

During the Wisconsin Episode glaciation, the Lake Michigan Lobe of the Laurentide Ice Sheet reached its maximum extent, which is delineated by the Buda Moraine approximately 5 miles west of the Rome Quadrangle (fig. 1). As the ice margin retreated to the northeast, drainage from the melting ice sheet flowed southward following the course of the modern Illinois River and cut the present valley, depositing thick deposits of sand and gravel that are preserved in outwash plains and terraces. These deposits were the source of fine sand and silt that was picked up by winds

**Figure 2** Axes of major bedrock valleys and routes of ancient and modern rivers in west-central Illinois (after Horberg 1950). The

MILES

Path of Ancient Mississipppi River

Rome quadrangle is shown in yellow.

and transported downwind, blanketing the local uplands with loess. As the river downcut into the new valley fill, tributary streams were lengthened and incised. With the disappearance of glaciers and the return of warmer

The uplands bordering the Illinois River valley have an undulating to rolling topography crossed by several arcuate ridges (moraines) that delineate margins of the Lake Michigan Lobe as it melted and the ice margin retreated (fig.1). In the Rome Quadrangle, till and other sediments composing these moraines are classified to the Tiskilwa Formation (Hansel and Johnson 1996).

### **Mapping Techniques**

This surficial geology map and associated cross section were developed from existing surface and subsurface geologic information available from the ISGS Geological Records Unit. The interpretations made from this data were verified by the geology observed at selected field sites in the quadrangle and from inferences made from geologic maps of the adjoining Spring Bay and Dunlap quadrangles (Stumpf and Weibel 2005, Hardy and Weibel 2008) that were based upon descriptions of continuous core to bedrock. In the subsurface, meltwater stream and river sediments infill the Middle Illinois Bedrock Valley and its tributary valleys (fig. 2). Glacial lake sediment is also present in the subsurface, especially the lower part of the bedrock valley fill, where glaciers advancing into the area locally blocked drainage. Organic-rich silt classified to the Robein Member of the Roxana Silt was encountered in the uplands and is a key stratigraphic marker bed. Silt classified to the Robein Member was deposited about 29,964 cal yr B.P. (26,180  $\pm$  230 radiocarbon years before present; ISGS-6553) on an older landscape in small water bodies or depressions during the nonglacial period prior to the advance of Wisconsin Episode glaciers into the area. Locally in the subsurface below the Robein Member, remnants of a paleosol (Sangamon Geosol) developed in deposits classified to the Glasford Formation are preserved. This soil formed prior to the deposition of the organic silt during a nonglacial period (Sangamon Episode) between 60,000 and 130,000 years ago.

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