

Ouaternary Geology

The Geneva Quadrangle in northeastern Illinois, about 40 miles west of downtown Chicago (fig. 1), is a glaciated area on the edge of rapid urbanization in Kane County. The present-day landscape and most surficial deposits in the Geneva Quadrangle resulted primarily from the action of continental glaciers during the last glaciation (Wisconsin Episode). Deposits of the next-to-last glaciation (Illinois Episode) are preserved in buried bedrock valleys and lowlands (see cross sections) where they were not eroded by subsequent glacial advances. Pre-Illinois episode glacial advances probably occurred in the region (Willman and Frye 1970); however, their deposits have not been recognized in Kane County, either because they were eroded or are not distinguishable from Illinois Episode deposits. As a result of the many glacial pulses during the Wisconsin and Illinois Episodes, bedrock is buried by up to 180 feet of unsorted glacial debris (till), sorted sand and gravel (glaciofluvial deposits), sorted silt and clay (glacial and postglacial lake sediment), and peat (marsh deposits). Minor thicknesses of windblown silt (loess), peat, and modern river sediment thinly cover the glacial deposits with 2 to 20 feet of loose sediment. In a few areas of high bedrock along the Fox River, Silurian dolomite and Ordovician shale and limestone crop out or are near the surface, such as shown along cross section C–C'.

Canada via the Lake Michigan basin (fig. 1; Willman and Frye 1970). During the most recent glaciation (the Wisconsin Episode), two sublobes of the Lake Michigan glacial lobe (the Harvard and Princeton Sublobes) merged and overlapped in Kane County (fig. 1; Hansel and Johnson 1996, Curry et al. 1999). The flow of these sublobes, generally to the west, was constricted by bedrock highs (fig. 2) or preexisting moraines in northwestern and central Kane County As a consequence, several moraines, well separated to the south, become less separated or overlap in Kane County (fig. 1). Thus, significant stacking of various types of glacial deposits, of contrasting age and lithology, occurs in the Geneva Quadrangle (see cross sections).

During early glaciations, ice advanced generally toward the southwest from

Deposits of the Illinois Episode glaciation include yellow-brown to pinkish brown loam to sandy loam till (Glasford Formation) as much as 50 feet thick, and outwash sand and gravel (Pearl Formation) as much as 80 feet thick. Some sand bodies occur within the Glasford Formation, and some unsorted mudflow or till deposits (diamicton) occur within the Pearl Formation. Both the Glasford and Pearl Formations are preserved below Wisconsin Episode deposits, primarily in bedrock lowlands or in buried valley segments below an elevation of 700 feet (see cross sections). None of the Illinois Episode deposits were found exposed in outcrops in this quadrangle. Based on water wells and municipal water supply borings, Pearl Formation sand and gravel is up to 100 feet thick in the St. Charles Bedrock Valley, which extends from northeast to southwest across this quadrangle (fig. 2 and cross sections). The upper 5 to 10 feet of Glasford Formation till was weathered during the Sangamon interglacial episode (from

about 135,000 to 55,000 years before present). This weathered zone is commonly described as a green clay in water well drillers' logs. In some former depressions, the till deposits are overlain by as much as 10 feet of peat and organic silt (Robein Member of Roxana Silt) deposited in cool to cold climate bogs, between about 50,000 and 24,000 years before present in northern Illinois (Meyers and King 1985, Curry 1989).

The first major deposit of the last glaciation (Wisconsin Episode) is a pinkish brown to gray loam to clay loam diamicton with minor sand and gravel bodies (Tiskilwa Formation). This unit overlies Illinois Episode deposits or bedrock in the Geneva Quadrangle. The typically dense and uniform Tiskilwa Formation is interpreted to be primarily subglacial till but also includes debris flows. This unit is up to 100 feet thick (cross section B–B'), but thins to the southeast beneath the younger units. The Tiskilwa till has a distinctive pinkish hue and also has diagnostic physical properties in northeastern Illinois, averaging $35 \pm 10\%$ sand $(0.063 \ \mu\text{m}), 39 \pm 5\%$ silt (0.004 to 0.063 $\ \mu\text{m})$, and $26 \pm 6\%$ clay (<0.004 $\ \mu\text{m}$) and $66 \pm 3\%$ illite in the clay mineral fraction based on hundreds of samples (Wickham et al. 1988).

The Tiskilwa till in the Geneva Quadrangle was deposited by two sublobes of the Lake Michigan Lobe. Initially, the Harvard Sublobe advanced and formed the Marengo Moraine in western Kane County (fig. 1) between about 25,500 and 22,500 years before present. A change in the configuration of the ice margin occurred afterward when ice of the Princeton Sublobe advanced and formed the Bloomington Morainic System (fig. 1) between about 22,500 and 19,000 years before present. The Princeton Sublobe is thought to have overtopped the Marengo Moraine in much of Kane County (Wickham et al. 1988). Fabric analyses (A.K. Hansel) from the Fox River Stone Quarry (Sec. 4, T40N, R8E) indicate a westerly direction of ice advance (from the Harvard Sublobe) during the deposition of the lower part of Tiskilwa Formation, changing to a northwesterly advance (from the Princeton Sublobe) during the deposition of the upper Tiskilwa Formation (Curry et al. 1999).

Materials

Moraines, immediately east of the mapped area (fig. 1). Lithostratigraphy and Interpretations

years before present.

QUATERNARY DEPOSITS Hudson Episode (postglacial) 10,000–0 years B.P. (before present) Peat, muck, organic silt, and clay; fibrous, sometimes Grayslake Peat **9P** Swampy depressional deposits, lake filling, and slopewash; interbedded with sand, silt, and clay; 5 to 10 feet thick. intertongues with Equality and Cahokia Formations. Sand, silt, and clay, locally containing beds of sandy gravel; Cahokia Formation stratified 5 to 20 feet thick. Alluvium; typically occurs in the floodplains and channels of the Fox River and streams such as Norton, Ferson, and Otter Creeks. Wisconsin Episode–Mason Group (last glaciation) 55.000-10,000 years B.P. Clay and silt, containing some beds of fine to medium sand; Equality Formation e Lacustrine sediment; intertongues with other units in Mason and laminated to massive; 5 to 25 feet thick. Wedron Groups; occurs in proglacial, supraglacial, slackwater, and some postglacial lake basins; overlain by 0 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt Sand and gravel; stratified to massive; generally well sorted; Henry Formation (except Wasco facies) can be cross-bedded or plane-bedded, containing beds of Outwash; intertongues with Equality Formation and diamicton units of silt, clay, and diamicton; generally 5 to 75 feet thick. the Wedron Group; occurs in glacial meltwater channels and outwash plains adjacent to end moraines; overlain by 0 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt. Sand and gravel, containing lenses of silt, clay, and diamicton; Wasco facies, Henry Formation irregularly bedded and moderately sorted; 5 to 60 feet thick. hw Ice-contact sediment; interstratified and associated with the Batestown-Member, Lemont Formation; occurs in kames and kamic moraines; overlain by 0 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt. Organic silt, peat, silt, and clay; brown, black, gray, and bluegray; stratified; leached; up to 10 feet thick. Depressional deposits; accumulated in poorly drained landscapes; underlies Henry Formation or Tiskilwa Formation. Wisconsin Episode – Wedron Group (last glaciation) 55,000–10,000 years B.P. Diamicton, silty clay to silty clay loam; gray to gray-brown; Yorkville Member, Lemont Formation oxidizes to yellow-brown; generally massive but locally **by** Till and ice margin sediment; overlain by 0 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt. contains beds of sorted sediment, often fine-grained; contains shale and dolomite clasts; 5 to 80 feet thick. **Batestown Member, Lemont Formation** Diamicton, silt loam to loam; gray to gray-brown, oxidizing to vellow-brown, orange-brown, or pale pinkish brown; lower **Ib** Till and ice marginal sediment; typically associated with Wasco portion is massive; upper portion is often stratified and interfacies, Henry Formation; present in kamic topography; overlain by 0 to 4 bedded with silt and sand; 5 to 30 feet thick. feet of Peoria Silt. Diamicton, loam to clay loam: pinkish brown to gray: locally **Tiskilwa Forma** contains beds or small channels of sand and gravel; as much as t Till and ice marginal sediment; pinches out to the south and east; 100 feet thick. outcrops in areas along lower portions of Norton and Ferson Creeks; mainly not present south of Norton Creek on the east side of the Fox River; overlain by 0 to 4 feet of Peoria Silt. Illinois Episode–(next to last glaciation) about 200,000–130,000 years B.P. Sand and gravel with some silt and clay; stratified and sorted; contains some lenses of diamicton; 0 to 110 feet thick. **Pearl Formation** (in cross sections only) Outwash; contains some mud flow and ice marginal sediment; intertongues with Glasford Formation; occurs primarily in the St. Charles Bedrock Valley and its tributaries. Diamicton, loam to sandy loam; pinkish brown to brown; **Glasford Formation** (in cross sections only) contains some sand and gravel bodies; 0 to 80 feet thick. **g** Till and ice-marginal sediment; intertongues with the Pearl Formation; occurrence is patchy; most commonly preserved in bedrock lows in northern and western areas of the quadrangle. SILURIAN AND ORDOVICIAN BEDROCK Limestone, shale, and dolomite within about 5 feet of ground **bedrock exposures or near-surface bedrock** surface; rock units dip gently to the east. Silurian carbonate and Ordovician shale and dolomite (Maquoketa Group) outcrop in a few exposures along the Fox River; these rock units dip gently to the east; Silurian rock is preserved on bedrock highs

Data Points ♦ Water wells IDOT borings Engineering borings Outcrops ISGS borings Water Disturbed ground (significant spoil piles or removed earth in gravel pits, quarries, and landfills) Moraines (map only)

but has been eroded through to the underlying Maquoketa Group in most bedrock valleys (fig. 2 and Curry et al. 1988). **Cross Sections** — More reliable contact (based on higher-quality data) - - Less reliable data (based on lower quality data) Data point less than 1,000 feet from cross section line Data point more than 1,000 feet from cross section line Sand and gravel (cross sections only) Fine-grained lake sediments (cross sections only) Diamicton, silt, or clay

(cross sections only)

Throughout most of the Geneva Quadrangle, but especially west of the Fox River, a yellow-brown to gray, silt loam to loam diamicton (Batestown Member, Lemont Formation) overlies the Tiskilwa Formation. Batestown diamicton, 5 to 30 feet thick, is generally softer, less uniform, and less pink than the Tiskilwa diamicton. The Batestown diamicton in some places has a pale-pinkish hue because of incorporation of Tiskilwa till. When uniform, Batestown tills (previously called Malden Till Member; Willman and Frye 1970) are fairly silty, averaging $32 \pm 6\%$ sand, $46 \pm 5\%$ silt, and $22 \pm 5\%$ clay in northeastern Illinois (Wickham et al. 1988). A higher percentage of illite in the clay mineral fraction for Batestown till $(76 \pm 2\%)$ than for Tiskilwa till reflects more influence from Lake Michigan basin shales (Wickham et al. 1988).

Batestown diamicton is also commonly associated with sand and gravel (Henry Formation), a result of widespread glacial meltwater deposition during stagnant ice conditions. The Elburn Complex (Willman and Frye 1970), in extreme western portions of the quadrangle, contains numerous hills, many of which are kames, with sand and gravel in their cores. Therefore, this geomorphic region is interpreted to be a stagnation (kamic) moraine. The kames formed where sand and gravel was deposited by meltwater flowing into holes or low areas in the ice or along the margin of stagnant ice. Sand and gravel intermixed with diamicton bodies (Wasco facies of the Henry Formation) can be up to 60 feet thick in the largest kames (cross section B–B'). The flanks of these kames are overlain by 5 to 20 feet of Batestown diamicton, deposited as debris-rich stagnant ice melted out on top of the sand and gravel. Sand and gravel (Henry Formation), deposited between glacial advances, is also found underneath some landscapes mapped as Batestown Member diamicton (cross section A–A').

The extensive kamic landscape in central Kane County is probably a result of the convergence of the Harvard and Princeton Sublobes in this area and their inability to advance upgradient over the prominent Marengo Moraine (fig. 1). These conditions, and the obstruction of drainage to the northwest, are consistent with ice stagnation in the deteriorating Harvard Sublobe and in the interlobate area, as the Princeton Sublobe regionally advanced to the southwest and cut off the Harvard Sublobe after Tiskilwa till deposition. Deposition of Batestown diamicton and Wasco sand and gravel occurred between about 19,000 and 18,000

Trending north-south in the middle of the Geneva Quadrangle are the broad and gently undulating Minooka and St. Charles Moraines (fig. 1), which contain as much as 80 feet of gray to yellow-brown silty clay diamicton (Yorkville Member, Lemont Formation). Yorkville tills are notable in northeastern Illinois for their high percentages of shale clasts, illite (averaging $77 \pm 2\%$; Wickham et al. 1988), and clay (averaging $43 \pm 12\%$; Wickham et al. 1988).

After deposition of Batestown Member diamicton, glacial ice receded toward

Lake Michigan before readvancing to the St. Charles Moraine and then melting back a few miles to the Minooka Moraine. The moraines are separated by the Fox River, except west of South Elgin, where Minooka ice apparently crossed the St. Charles Bedrock Valley, depositing an upland outwash fan delta (2.5 km wide) on the St. Charles Moraine (Sec. 33, T41N, R8E). Fossil tundra plants found in lacustrine deposits underlying the fan delta at Fox River Stone Ouarry vielded radiocarbon ages of $17,539 \pm 128$ years (ISGS A-0021) and $17,176 \pm 127$ years before present (ISGSA-0103), approximately the time between the formation of the two moraines. Fossil plant fragments, seeds, small freshwater clams, and ostracodes (sand-sized aquatic crustaceans) suggest climatic conditions similar to modern-day tundra conditions in northern Canada (Curry et al. 1999).

A relatively thin covering (<20 feet) of stratified fine sand, silt, and clay (Equality Formation) occurs in many low-lying areas, where deposition occurred in former glacial lakes during the last glacial episode. Some lakes formed on top of glacial ice (as in Sec. 11, T40N, R8E); others formed proglacially between the edge of glacial ice and older end moraines (southeastern edge of map); and yet others formed in slackwater areas of larger creeks and rivers. Outwash sand and gravel (Henry Formation) is generally less than 40 feet thick but may be up to 70 feet thick along some portions of terraces along Otter Creek and the Fox River (cross sections A–A' and C–C'). These coarse-grained river deposits (outwash) were periodically laid down by glacial meltwater streams in front of ice margins. Henry Formation sand and gravel is up to 30 feet thick in the outwash fan delta of the Minooka Moraine northwest of the Fox River Stone Quarry. Outwash along an abandoned valley in the southwest portion of the Geneva Quadrangle was probably deposited when the St. Charles Moraine was formed. Outwash in the Fox River Valley is attributed to westward glacial advances to the Woodstock and West Chicago Moraines north and east of this area (fig. 1; Leighton et al. 1928–1930). Similarly, outwash in Brewster and Norton Creek valleys, which dissect the Minooka Moraine, is related to the Woodstock and West Chicago

After ice of the Wisconsin Episode receded, 2 to 4 feet of loess (Peoria Silt) was deposited by episodic dust storms, which deflated silt from outwash in the Rock River and Mississippi River valleys. During postglacial times, the Grayslake Peat was deposited in current and former marshy depressions where high water tables and lack of oxygen prevented organic materials from decomposing. Modern stream sediment (primarily sand and silt deposits) is inset into outwash, lake deposits, and till along the many creeks and rivers in the area. Thin colluvial

Material Resources and Environmental Hazards

Sand and Gravel

Significant sand and gravel deposits include the Henry Formation, the Pearl Formation, and sorted sediment within till units. Sources of economically minable sand and gravel are mostly limited to the Henry Formation (including the Wasco facies) because sand and gravel bodies within till units are more limited in thickness and more unpredictable in dimensions and because Pearl Formation sand and gravel is buried too deeply in bedrock valleys (see cross sections and fig. 2).

construction materials for many years (Leighton et al. 1928–1930, Block 1960, Masters 1978). Small pits once operated in outwash deposits in terraces and deltas (undifferentiated Henry Formation) and in ice-contact deposits in kamic hills (Wasco facies, Henry Formation). Large sand and gravel operations once existed on terraces near the great bend of the Fox River south of South Elgin (Gross 1969). Few pits remain in the Geneva 7.5-minute Quadrangle because of the rapid suburban growth of the area and because of the trend toward fewer but larger sand and gravel operations in the county. As of 1997, only one moderatesize operation existed in the outwash fan north of the Fox River Stone Quarry, west of South Elgin. Today, sand and gravel is commonly used by the construction industry for concrete, asphalt, fill, and roadbase (Goldman 1994).

Groundwater and Its Potential for Contamination

1990). In valleys and lowlands, bodies or tongues of Henry Formation sand and gravel compose the most significant Quaternary aquifer (see stippled areas of cross sections). Sand and gravel deposits, in former valleys that were buried by later glacier advances, provide a high-quality water supply where the aquifer is protected from surface contamination by overlying silty or clayey till deposits. For instance, an excellent water supply for the towns of Geneva and St. Charles is found in the Pearl Formation sand and gravel in the St. Charles Bedrock Valley west of these towns (cross sections B–B' and C–C'). In upland areas, the most common Quaternary aquifers are the Wasco facies of the Henry Formation and sand and gravel bodies within till units (stippled areas of cross sections). Many wells in the area obtain water from sand and gravel layers within and below the Glasford Formation, from fractured dolomite bedrock, or deep sandstone aquifers. Curry and Seaber (1990) provide an overview of the bedrock and

Agricultural or industrial contaminants are a potential threat to groundwater quality in near-surface aquifers that are not overlain by a clayey, unfractured confining unit (such as clayey till or lake sediment). Shallow sand and gravel aquifers, such as the Henry Formation, exposed at the surface or buried by a thin loess cap (<4 feet) are most vulnerable to contamination. The Yorkville Member, Lemont Formation (containing 30% to 50% clay), is an excellent aquitard, which protects the groundwater in underlying sand and gravel deposits. The groundwater in deposits of the St. Charles Bedrock Valley is well protected where the valley is overlain by clayey deposits of the St. Charles Moraine. Tiskilwa Formation till, containing an average of 25% to 30% clay, is a good aquitard where it is uniform in texture and does not contain sand bodies. Batestown Member till (typically 15% to 20% clay in the quadrangle) is a fair to poor aquitard because it is less clayey than Tiskilwa Formation till and is more heterogeneous, containing numerous sand bodies and lenses, particularly where it is associated with or near areas of kamic topography (see cross sections). Berg et al. (1984) summarized the factors that determine the potential for contamination of shallow aquifers in Illinois.

apping Techniques and Data Sources

This surficial geologic map is based in part on soil parent materials compiled from the Soil Survey of Kane County, Illinois (Goddard 1979, scale 1:15,840) and early unpublished data and geologic maps at the 1:62,500 scale (Leighton et al. 1928–1930). The map was considerably modified based on field observations and new drill cores taken in 1995. Additional data sources for the surficial geology map include Leverett (1899), Gross (1969), Curry et al. (1988), and unpublished field notes on file at the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS). Well log descriptions, Illinois Department of Transportation records, and other logs of engineering data, on file at the ISGS Geologic Records Unit, were also used to

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