Previous Groundwater Studies

1994 USGS MODEL

- first numerical simulation
- 1982 SWCB framework



2009 USGS MODEL

- increased resolution
- 1982-94 framework



Framework Borehole Data



USGS-DEQ Eastern Shore Study

2017 part-time "scoping effort"

2018 hydrogeologic framework revision

2019 publication

USGS SIR 2019-5093

- body (text, figures, tables)
- 13 plates
 - borehole locations
 - hydrogeologic section
 - structural contour maps
 - 250 mg/L chloride surface contour map
- 3 online data appendixes
 - aquifer altitudes at boreholes
 - aquifer hydraulic properties
 - chloride concentrations



Prepared in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Hydrogeologic Framework of the Virginia Eastern Shore



Scientific Investigations Report 2019–5093

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey



FRAMEWORK

static description of subsurface

- configuration of aquifers/confining units
- sediment composition/hydraulic properties
- configuration of saltwater interface
- direct observation/measurement
- exact
- incomplete coverage



- simulation of flow
 - sources/sinks
 - rates of movement
 - changes over time
- complete coverage
- approximation
- theoretical representation



FRAMEWORK -

static description of subsurface

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Groundwater Flow







*** VERTICAL SCALE GREATLY EXAGGERATED ***



*** VERTICAL SCALE GREATLY EXAGGERATED ***



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SOUTH

Hydrogeologic Section (report plate 2)

NORTH



Borehole Geophysical Log and Lithology (report figure 5)



SHELLS AND SAND



Structural Contouring

SOUTH



NORTH

Structural Contouring

SOUTH



NORTH



SOUTH



NORTH

5 MI

Mid-Pleistocene Low Sea-Level Stand

adapted from Hobbs, 2004



Channel Inundation and Filling



Previous Paleochannel Studies

- positions of channels approximately known
- channel-fill sediments poorly known
- original borehole data mostly unavailable

adapted from Mixon, 1985; Powars 2011



Previously Documented Paleochannel Sediments (Mixon, 1985)







* PALEOCHANNEL LESS PERMEABLE THAN CONFINED AQUIFERS PALEOCHANNEL MORE PERMEABLE THAN CONFINED AQUIFERS

Revised Hydrogeologic Framework





Exmore Paleochannel



Confined System Incision



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- VA DEQ permit files
- 36 tests
- 58 wells
- 133 analyses







<u>RANGES</u>					FT ² /D
133	30	143	1820	214	MIN
080	4360	8270	20340	20290	MAX

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SOUTH

Groundwater Chloride

NORTH



5 MI



PREDEVELOPMENT WATER LEVELS

PALEOCHANNELS

250 mg/L CHLORIDE SURFACE

ESTIMATED GROUNDWATER AGE





SOUTH

Groundwater Chloride

NORTH



5 MI

Shallow Saltwater



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Revised Model



- Jason Pope project chief
- aligned with USGS national model grid
- 8 layers
- 300 columns x 540 rows
- 250 m cells confined
- surficial aquifer detail
 - 50-175 m cells
 - hi-res LiDAR DEM
- 1900 2020

Acknowledgements

Todd Beach, Scott Bruce – borehole data

Bundick Well & Pump – borehole logs

• Ryan Green – chloride data

• Matt Link – aquifer-test data

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