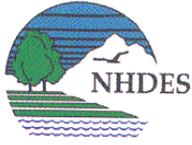


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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State Releases Bedrock Geologic Map in Digital Format

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS), a unit of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), announced today the availability of the Bedrock Geologic Map of the state in a digital (electronic) format. This map was first published in 1997 and has been available in paper format at the 1:250,000 scale, and digitally from the GRANIT database. The digital data format supports both GIS data analysis and on-demand printing of map products for purchase and use by the public. The latest version of the map being released today and available on CD, incorporates a few minor corrections from the original map, making it the most up-to-date version of the data that is available.

The bedrock map shows the distribution of over 154 types of metamorphic and igneous rocks that lie beneath New Hampshire. Natural contaminants found in ground water, such as arsenic, uranium, and radon, have been associated with particular types of rock, and the bedrock map shows the distribution of rock types around the state. Hydrogeologic consultants, engineers, scientists, planners, and health officials routinely use geologic maps as the basis for land-use master plans, infrastructure expansion, groundwater availability assessments and protection initiatives, scientific studies, and natural resources and natural hazards (e.g., earthquakes and landslides) inventories.

The CD also contains other useful data sets that can be used with the geology layer, including over 38,000 georeferenced water wells; watershed boundaries, the location of streams, ponds, wetlands, and open water bodies; political boundaries, and an index of 7.5 minute quadrangles. The CD also contains free software (ARC Explorer) which allows anyone with a suitable PC to view and use the data without the full suite of GIS software. A GIS is a sophisticated set of computerized tools for storing, manipulating, and analyzing layers of map data to enhance our understanding of the world around us.

“Having these data sets in an integrated package will create a powerful tool for resource evaluation and environmental studies,” said Dr. David Wunsch, New Hampshire State Geologist. Dr. Wunsch emphasized that NHGS is committed to improving access to geologic map data statewide. The transition to digital format is necessitated by the increasing costs of traditional “hard copy” printing, storage, and distribution. In addition, digital data also allows a user to exploit the power of a computer to combine several layers of information into useful, composite tools. The Bedrock CD is a joint publication between the New Hampshire Geological Survey and the Mineral Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, and can be purchased from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Public Information Center, at pip@des.state.nh.us; or write NHDES – PIC, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095; or call (603) 271-2975; or fax (603) 271-8013. The price of the CD dataset is \$30.

For further information on this topic, please contact Dr. David Wunsch, State Geologist, New Hampshire Geological Survey, at (603) 271-6482.

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