

DISCUSSION

This map shows the saturated thickness of the water-table aquifer. This aquifer consists of the deposits of the Columbia Formation and those portions of the Magalloway and Egglestown Mt. Laurel formations, and Ranococas Group that are hydraulically connected with the Columbia deposits (see Groot, Demicco, and Cherry, 1983). For example, large, saturated thicknesses in the zone trending northeast-southwest near Townsend reflect the addition of the sands of the Ranococas Group to the total thickness of the sands of the overlying Columbia Formation.

Saturated thickness is the thickness of the aquifer throughout which pores are water-filled. The thickness of the aquifer itself depends on the configuration of the land surface and the basal contact of the sand. The upper surface of the saturated zone is the "water table." Larger values of saturated thickness indicate greater available drawdown for shallow wells.

The saturated thickness was determined through interpretation of data in publications and files of the Delaware Geological Survey, United States Geological Survey, and the Water Resources Center of the University of Delaware. The thicknesses shown on the map represent the best judgment of the authors based on available data. Detailed investigations of specific sites will require additional data.

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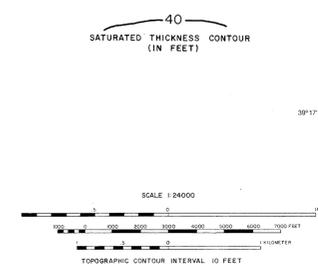
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**SATURATED THICKNESS OF THE WATER-TABLE AQUIFER
IN SOUTHERN NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

by
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1983



Base maps: USGS Topographic Division Elkon (Md.), St. Georges, Delaware City, Cecilton (Md.), Middletown, Taylors Bridge, Millington (Md.), Clayton, and Smyrna Quadrangles.

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