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Ground-water flow near Yorktown focus of Navy/USGS report

To provide the local community with information about shallow ground-water resources in the Yorktown area, the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown funded a study in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of the Interior, as detailed in a new USGS report. "The report should answer the public's questions about shallow ground water and how it flows in our vicinity," according to Jeffrey Harlow of the Station's Environmental Directorate. Water-level maps from the report show that shallow ground water flows toward the York and James River estuaries. A sequence of clay, silt, and fine sand layers, 175 feet in thickness, isolates the shallow ground water from deep ground-water sources used for public supplies.

Additional information about the study results can be found in the newly published report titled, "Geohydrology of the Shallow Aquifer System, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, Virginia," by Allen R. Brockman and others: USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 97-4188, 25 figures, 1 plate, and 61 pages.

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown is located in an area rich in colonial history and amidst a setting of natural beauty. Since its establishment in 1918, the Station has proudly served the Atlantic Fleet and our nation and evolved from a relatively small mine depot into a premier weapons station.

In 1997, the outstanding environmental accomplishments of the Station were recognized by the Secretary of the Navy and Department of Defense.

As the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 1,200 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial, scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers.

This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, contribute to sound economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources, and enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.