



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

MIDCONTINENT RIFT INTRUSIVE SUPERSUITE

Miscellaneous intrusions—Subvolcanic sheet-like intrusions possibly related in timing to the Beaver Bay Complex of the Midcontinent Rift Intrusive Supersuite (Miller and Green, 2002), emplaced into the North Shore Volcanic Group of the Keweenaw Supergroup. The terminology for the various rock groups and formations on this and the Two Harbors quadrangle (Boerboom and others, 2003) follows that of Miller and others (2002). Pope (1976) mapped much of the Silver Cliff and Lafayette Bluff diabase intrusions. The Lafayette Bluff diabase outcrops were remapped as part of this study, but most of the outcrops of the Silver Cliff diabase shown on this map were taken from Pope's study.

Unamed intrusions
Diabase—Dark gray, fine- to medium-grained, ophiitic. Contains small, round, chloritic amygdaloids near dike margins. The dike on the lakeshore in T. 53 N., R. 10 W., sec. 15 is 6.5 feet (2 meters) thick, weakly porphyritic, and has minor brittle faults present along its margins. The dike along the lakeshore in T. 53 N., R. 10 W., sec. 14, is approximately 120 feet (37 meters) thick and cut by a second dike of fine-grained, weakly porphyritic, chilled ophiitic diabase.
Prismatic monzoniorite—Dark gray, fine-grained, fely prismatic-intergranular texture. Contains approximately 42 percent plagioclase, some of which forms radial clusters; 20 percent augite as small granular crystals and larger phenocrystic prismatic grains dotted with opaque oxides along grain margins; 18 percent opaque oxides; and 30 percent turbid brown material that may be either devitrified glass or altered orthoclase feldspar. Groundmass also contains fine dusty opaques, chlorite, leucosene, and fine prismatic pyroxene. Occurs as a north-northeast-striking, 100 foot (30 meter) thick dike with prominent orthogonal jointing that cuts icelandite in the Stewart River area (T. 53 N., R. 10 W., sec. 16).

Porphyritic basalt to prismatic ferromonzodorite—Brownish-pink to dark gray, aphanitic to fine-grained. Exposed as a complex system of irregular subhorizontal intrusions emplaced into volcanic rocks. Exposed at the shoreline between the Stewart River and Silver Creek, along the boundary of T. 53 N., R. 10 W., secs. 21 and 28, as a lower intrusion 6.5 feet (2 meters) or more thick, and an upper intrusion that is greater than 23 feet (7 meters) thick. The lower intrusion contains variable amounts of microlitic skeletal plagioclase, prismatic pyroxene, and oxide granules in a glassy matrix, and the thin leading edge of it is composed entirely of brown, perlitic-fractured, possibly vitric glass of basaltic chemical composition. Round xenoliths of anorthositic rocks up to 1.6 feet (0.5 meter) in diameter are common within this lower intrusion. The upper sheet exposed at the lakeshore is coarse grained but probably petrogenetically related because it contains plagioclase laths and prismatic augite crystals lined by magnetite granules in a mesostasis of turbid brown material that may be K-feldspar or devitrified glass. The petrogenetic relationship between the two sills is uncertain but could be verified by geochemical data. Scattered inland outcrops of a rock type similar to the lower intrusion are exposed just to the west of the map area (Boerboom and others, 2003). Possibly related to unit *dm* on the basis of similar texture and mineralogy.

Diatreme-like breccia—Brown to yellowish-brown intrusive breccia characterized by angular clasts that range from 16 feet (5 meters) to less than 1 millimeter in size. Clast types include very fine-grained porphyritic basalt, amygdaloidal basalt, ophiitic basalt, and minor interflow sedimentary rocks. Fine-grained, fely-textured, prismatic ferromonzodorite associated with this intrusion occurs as clasts and possibly as the host intrusive phase, but this relationship is ambiguous. Diatreme is best exposed on a high lakeshore cliff east of Crow Creek (SE 1/4 sec. 1, T. 53 N., R. 10 W.), accessible only by boat, as a vertical east-west-striking 10 to 13 feet (3 to 4 meters) wide dike that cuts adjacent volcanic rocks. Poorly exposed on land, but outcrop distribution indicates a partial ring-like shape to the intrusion. Variably replaced by zeolite minerals, mainly laumontite, and locally mineralized by pyrite. Possibly related to the Lafayette Bluff diabase as an explosive discharge of volatile elements concentrated during the cooling history of that diabase.

Silver Creek diabase—Irregular subhorizontal to discordant subhorizontal intrusion of uniform ophiitic olivine diabase that is at least 107 feet (60 meters) thick. Forms a prominent highland that projects north from Silver Cliff at Lake Superior to beyond this map area. Crow Creek has eroded through the sill and exposed the underlying volcanic strata, but soil and talus obscure the contact. A tunnel for State Highway 61, carved through the southern terminus of the diabase, has created good exposures of the contact between the diabase and the adjacent volcanic rocks. Within the Encampment River area, the diabase is in near vertical contact with the adjacent hornfels granite and volcanic rocks, possibly indicating the presence of an underlying feeder to the main sheet. With the exception of a roof pendant of metamorphosed mafic volcanic rocks and minor interflow sedimentary rocks near its southern terminus, the Silver Creek diabase is generally free of inclusions. Contact metamorphism of the rocks adjacent to the base of the diabase sheet is confined to a narrow zone that is not depicted on the map.

Ophiitic olivine diabase—Gray, medium-grained, massive, with black augite oikocrysts typically 2 to 4 centimeters in diameter. Contains 60 to 65 percent plagioclase; 12 to 15 percent olivine; 15 to 18 percent augite; 0 to 3 percent pigeonite; and 2 to 4 percent opaque minerals. Locally exhibits a weak, discontinuous modal banding near the base of the sill. Exposures at the northeast end of the Silver Cliff tunnel show the presence of thin, dark grayish-black, fine-grained diabase dikes and pink, medium-grained, granitoid hybrid dikes that form small complex intrusions into the adjacent lava flows beneath the sill. Pope (1976) described thin, irregular, shallow dipping lenses of olivine-free, variably pegmatitic gabbro within the sill.

LAFAYETTE BLUFF DIABASE

Lafayette Bluff diabase—Irregular, discordant, sheet- to dike-shaped body composed of soft, dark greenish-black, amygdaloidal and porphyritic basalt, with local differentiated pools of coarse-grained prismatic ferromonzodorite. Typically deeply weathered to a brown crumbly gray bearing round corestones of ferrous diabase. The Lafayette Bluff diabase forms prominent high hills near Lake Superior and low hills inland. The diabase locally contains abundant anorthositic xenoliths, such as outcrops on the lakeshore in the southwest corner T. 53 N., R. 9 W., sec. 6, as well as scattered xenoliths of metamorphosed basalt. State Highway 61 has been excavated through the Lafayette Bluff diabase near Lake Superior. Contact metamorphism of the wallrocks to the Lafayette Bluff diabase is restricted to a few meters in extent, and is not depicted on the map.

Prismatic pyroxene granodiorite to ferromonzodorite—Dark pinkish-gray, coarse-grained to locally pegmatitic, weakly porphyritic. Contains blocky, moderately altered, zoned euhedral plagioclase and moderately altered, subhedral, equant to prismatic clinopyroxene crystals that are altered to schiller structure. Mesostasis of pink intergrown graphic-nymetite quartz and orthoclase, irregular blocky to skeletal opaque oxides, brown clayey material, apatite, sphene, and small green clinopyroxene, possibly of aegirine-augite composition. Occurs as small differentiated bodies within the diabasic olivine gabbro unit (*ndb*).

Diabasic olivine gabbro—Dark green, medium- to coarse-grained, typically ophiitic, commonly porphyritic and amygdaloidal. Contains 55 to 80 percent generally fresh, fine- to coarse-grained plagioclase with characteristic zonally concentrated dusty inclusions of mafic material, and up to 25 percent fresh, subpoikilite to poikilite augite; 5 to 12 percent variably altered olivine; 2 to 3 percent opaque oxides; trace amounts of pigeonite, inverted pigeonite, and orthopyroxene; and minor granophyre mesostasis. Amygdaloids and diktytaxite cavities are filled with fibrous zeolite minerals. Readily recognized by its distinctive color, softness, variable amygdaloidal and porphyritic character, and weathered nature. Granophyre content is slightly elevated near unit *ng*. Relatively abundant amygdaloids indicate that the magma may have been unusually enriched in volatiles, the concentration of which may have led to the formation of the diatreme-like breccia unit (*dm*). Contains scattered xenoliths of coarse-grained anorthositic up to 10 feet (3 meters) in diameter and metamorphosed basalt.

Highland intrusion—Mixed gabbro to felsic intrusive rocks exposed in scattered outcrops at the north edge of the map. Anorthositic xenoliths are common within the mafic phases. Geophysical data imply that these exposures are at the southern margin of a larger intrusive complex that continues northward into the Highland quadrangle.

Quartz monzoniorite to granite—Dusky to brick red, medium- to coarse-grained, fely texture defined by randomly oriented laths of plagioclase and altered prismatic augite; somewhat quartz-mafic. Contains 25 to 35 percent euhedral, pink-colored plagioclase crystals and 2 to 5 percent massive, altered augite in a groundmass of mixed quartz (15 to 20 percent), and turbid pink K-feldspar (45 to 55 percent) that may include an indeterminate amount of altered plagioclase. Also contains apatite, diktytaxite chlorite and zircon, and abundant euhedral zircon. Grades into unit *ngm* (mixed gabbro). Outcrops of this unit in the Encampment River downstream from the Silver Creek diabase (see) and locally on the hilllope southeast of the diabase show similar texture but contain altered prismatic olivine grains in addition to other minerals. These exposures show increasing effects of contact metamorphism in proximity to the Silver Creek diabase.

Gabbroite to monzonitic intrusive rocks, andite—Inferred from aeromagnetic data to form the eastern extension of the same unit shown on the Two Harbors quadrangle (Boerboom and others, 2003), where it is exposed in scattered outcrops. Includes foliated intergranular gabbro and intergranular to ophiitic gabbro, monzonogabbro and gabbroanrite, and scattered xenoliths of anorthositic and hornfels basalt.

KEWEENAW SUPERGROUP

North Shore Volcanic Group—The volcanic rocks are part of the upper sequence of the southwest limb of the North Shore Volcanic Group (Green, 2002). The sequence is first subdivided into informal lithostratigraphic units (Fig. 1), as delineated by Green (2002) and modified by this study. These lithostratigraphic units are not defined by sharp compositional breaks, but rather have boundaries distinguished on the basis of relative thicknesses and chemical compositions of the constituent flows, or are separated by intervening diabase intrusions. Within the Castle Danger quadrangle, these lithostratigraphic units include flows assigned to the Sucker River basalts, the Larsonms basalts, the newly designated Stewart River basalts, the Two Harbors basalts, the newly designated Crow Creek lavas, and the Gooseberry River lavas (Fig. 1). The temporal correlation of the lithostratigraphic units that are separated by intrusions (as shown in the correlation of map units) is speculative.

The informal lithostratigraphic units are subdivided into map units that are delineated on the basis of features that can be discerned in outcrop and are augmented by petrographic descriptions. The field criteria include attributes such as grain size, texture, amygdale composition and abundance, flow thicknesses, and flow morphology. Many of the units shown in one formation are indistinguishable from similar units in other formations.

Brannon (1984) conducted a detailed geochemical study of volcanic rocks located to the southwest of this map area, along the Lake Superior shoreline, ending at the Two Harbors basalts, which are of quartz tholeiitic composition. No significant geochemical analyses have been collected to date for the lava flows within this map area.

Secondary minerals formed during hydrothermal burial metamorphism are abundant in these lavas, especially in the more permeable (fractured and amygdaloidal) upper zones of individual flows. The rocks in this quadrangle are metamorphosed to the upper zeolite facies (Schmidt, 1990, 1993).

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MAP SYMBOLS

- Geologic contact.
- - - Concealed below water.
- Fault—Speculated on the basis of geophysical data.
- Boundary between informal lithostratigraphic units—See Figure 1.
- Contact between individual lava flows—Shown only where mappable at the scale of map. Lines are solid where observed in outcrop and dashed where projected between outcrops.
- ↘ Strike and dip of volcanic flow layering—Horizontal, inclined. Angle in degrees from horizontal; includes flow parting and oxidation lamination.
- ↘ Strike and dip of flow- and intrusion-parallel joints—Approximates attitude of flow layering in volcanic rocks and orientation of sill-like intrusive rocks; angle in degrees from horizontal.
- ↘ Strike and dip of igneous foliation, textural layering, and modal layering—Angle in degrees from horizontal.
- ↘ Lamination and plunge of joint columns—Angle in degrees from horizontal.
- ↘ Strike and dip of minor faults—Angle in degrees from horizontal. Sense of movement unknown.
- ↘ Intrusive contact—Angle in degrees from horizontal.
- Bedrock outcrop—Identified during fieldwork for this map.
- Bedrock outcrop—Identified by Pope (1976), not remapped as part of this study.

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BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF THE CASTLE DANGER QUADRANGLE, LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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