EDITOR'S MESSAGE

William E. Wilson, Technical Editor

Reports in the Journal

The editors of *Hydrogeology Journal* welcome a variety of types of articles for inclusion in the Journal. The principal ones are listed in the "Instructions to Authors" at the back of this issue. One type is a "Report," which often describes the hydrogeology of a specific area. Inclusion of Reports provides readers with opportunities to learn about the hydrogeology of areas that they might otherwise not know, and to learn about approaches to problems that are taken in different parts of the world. Among hydrology journals with an international readership, only *Hydrogeology Journal* regularly publishes such descriptions.

Authors of Reports can effectively communicate their knowledge of a study area by following some basic guidelines. Most importantly, authors should clearly and effectively apply an understanding and knowledge of geologic principles, processes, conditions, and history to interpret groundwater conditions in an area. In addition, the Report should be structured in a logical, understandable way. Basic elements that are common to most Reports include the following:

1. Background information, including a description of the area, statement of the problem being addressed, and statement of objectives;
2. hydrogeologic framework, including units and structure;
3. groundwater flow system, including recharge and discharge areas and principal directions of groundwater flow;
4. description of the investigation, including approach, data collection, and methods of analysis;
5. interpretation of results; and
6. conclusions.

Of course, the details will vary according to the scope and emphasis of the Report. Nonetheless, every Report that describes the hydrogeology of an area should have a location map that shows not only the area of interest, but also the relationship of that area to a larger region that would be recognizable to someone unfamiliar with the study area. Where feasible, hydrogeologic sections should be included to help portray the hydrogeologic framework. The text should clearly distinguish data *description* from data *interpretation*, so that readers can readily identify the data, evaluate the author's interpretation, and make their own interpretations.

Reviewer guidelines -- for authors, too

All authors of technical articles submitted to the journal should be familiar with the criteria by which articles are judged for suitability and soundness. The following list of guidelines is sent to reviewers of all journal articles that enter into the review process:

1. Are objectives clearly stated?
2. Were the objectives met?
3. Are the conclusions supported by the data?
4. Were sound analytical methods used?
5. Are assumptions described and their reasonableness supported or rejected?
6. Are limitations and uncertainties in the data and analyses given?
7. Were alternative hypotheses and interpretations adequately considered?
8. Does the report present the results in an objective, unbiased fashion?
9. Is the report organization logical?
10. Is the writing clear, concise, and precise?

Authors who can truly answer in the affirmative to these questions for their own articles stand a good chance of receiving favorable reviews and acceptance for publication. Give it a try!