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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to Create Geologic Maps for Petersburg National Battlefield Sites**

**Charlottesville, VA-** Visitors to Petersburg National Battlefield sites will soon be able to learn more about the area's geology. The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will begin work on digital geologic maps for some of Virginia's historic civil war battlefields. DMME received \$79,000 from the National Park Service (NPS) for the project.

DMME geologists will collect data to create the maps for the western part of Petersburg Battlefield, Five Forks Battlefield and surrounding areas. The Coastal Plain sediments made it possible for extensive trench warfare and even tunnels in eastern battlefields. A significant change in geology known as a fall line to the west forced both sides to make adjustments to their strategies. This project will shed light on those geologic conditions that played a role in the battle between the North and South and serve as a tool in preservation and property management for years to come.

The project is expected to be completed in September of 2016 and will become a part of the battlefield's natural resource inventory.

Geologic maps describe the composition, texture, and age of rocks and sediments. Geologic maps may be accompanied by one or more cross-sections, showing the geologic relationships in the subsurface. The locations of important features such as faults are also shown on geologic maps.

Existing geologic maps and reports for NPS properties in Virginia can be found at: <http://nature.nps.gov/geology/inventory/index.cfm>. More information about geologic mapping in Virginia can be found at: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DGMR/mapping.shtml>.

For more information about this project, contact Matt Heller, a geologist with DMME, at 434-951-6351.