Regional Setting

The bedrock surface is a significant topographic feature throughout Illinois. Below the surface in northeastern Illinois the bedrock is more than 2000 feet (600 m) below sea level, whereas in southern Illinois the bedrock surface is more than 3000 feet (900 m) below sea level. Bedrock elevations vary from a low of 650 feet (200 m) below sea level in the southern part of the state to more than 1800 feet (550 m) above sea level in the northern part. The bedrock surface is a significant reference surface for the planning and development of the state's transportation, water, and other infrastructure. The bedrock surface is also a significant reference surface for the planning and development of the state's transportation, water, and other infrastructure.

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Figure 1: Regional bedrock topography from Curry et al. (2007). The differences between the data sets used are not significant, indicating that the bedrock surface is a significant reference surface for the planning and development of the state's transportation, water, and other infrastructure.