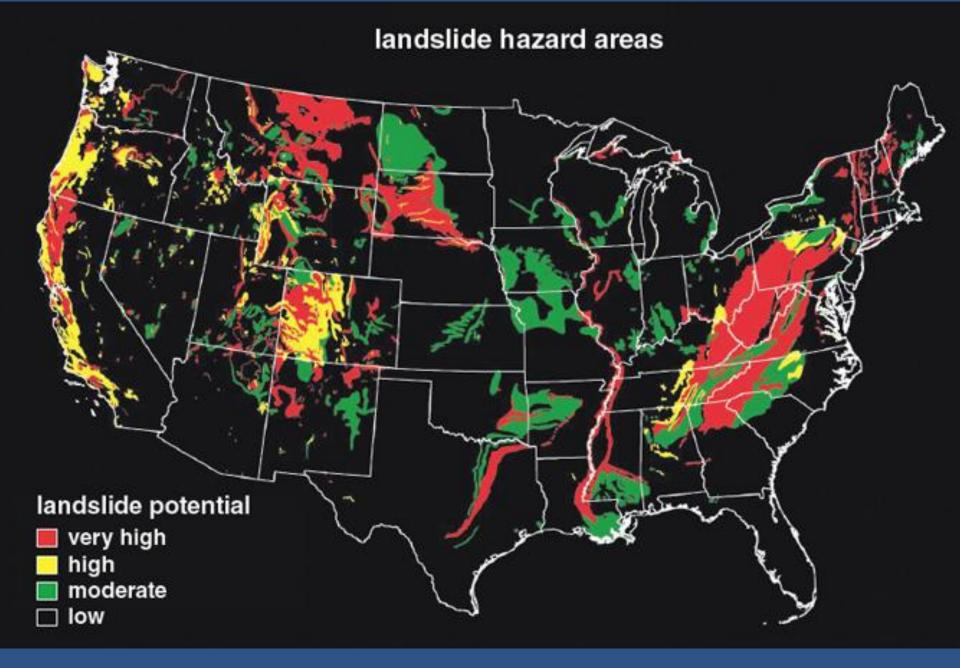
The Landslide Problem in Southwestern Pennsylvania

> Jim Hamel, Ph.D., P.E., P.G. Hamel Geotechnical Consultants Monroeville, Pennsylvania



### U. S. Geological Survey Landslide Susceptibility Map

### Every year in Southwestern Pennsylvania

## Landslides cause millions of dollars of damage

#### Displace people from their homes



#### Occasionally injure and kill people



Southwestern Pennsylvania - long noted for Landslides

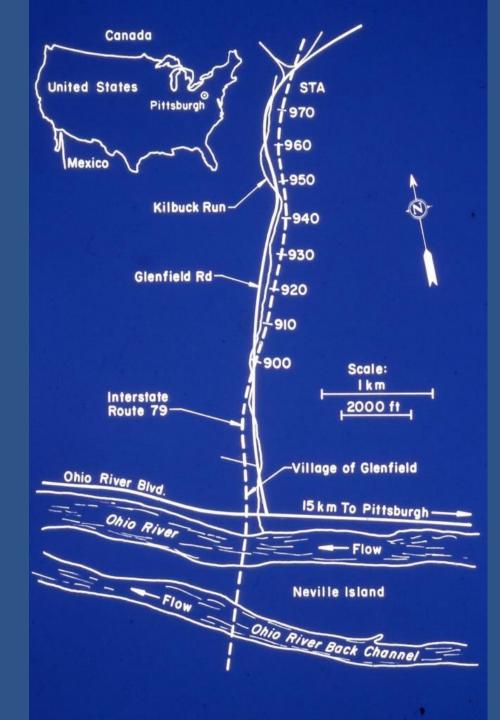
Results from Geology, Topography, Climate, History

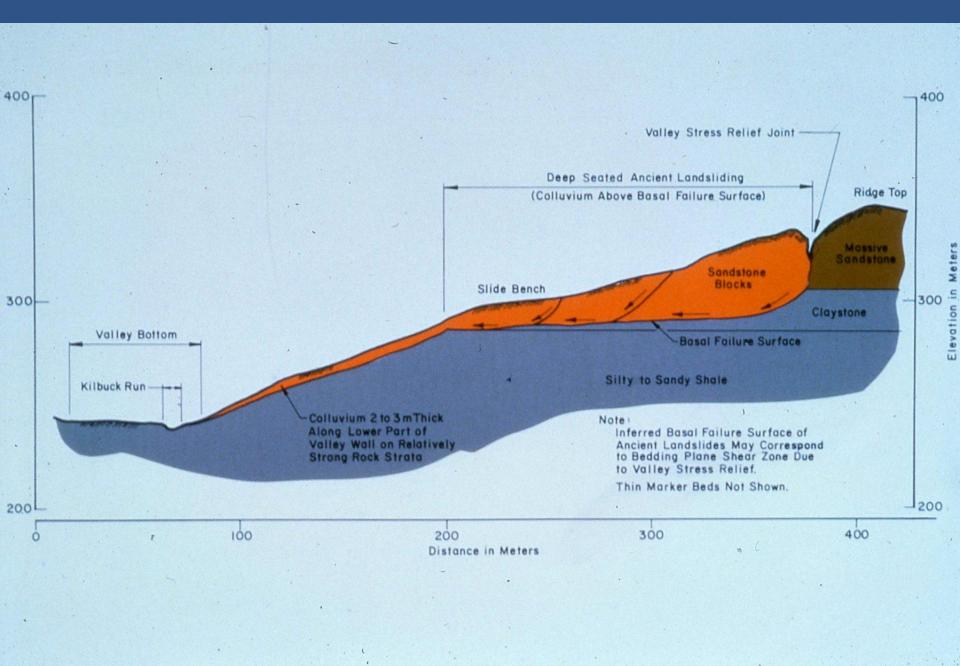
Flat-lying, interbedded, strong and weak sedimentary rocks have been acted upon by Erosion, Stress Relief, Weathering, Creep, and Sliding to produce masses of

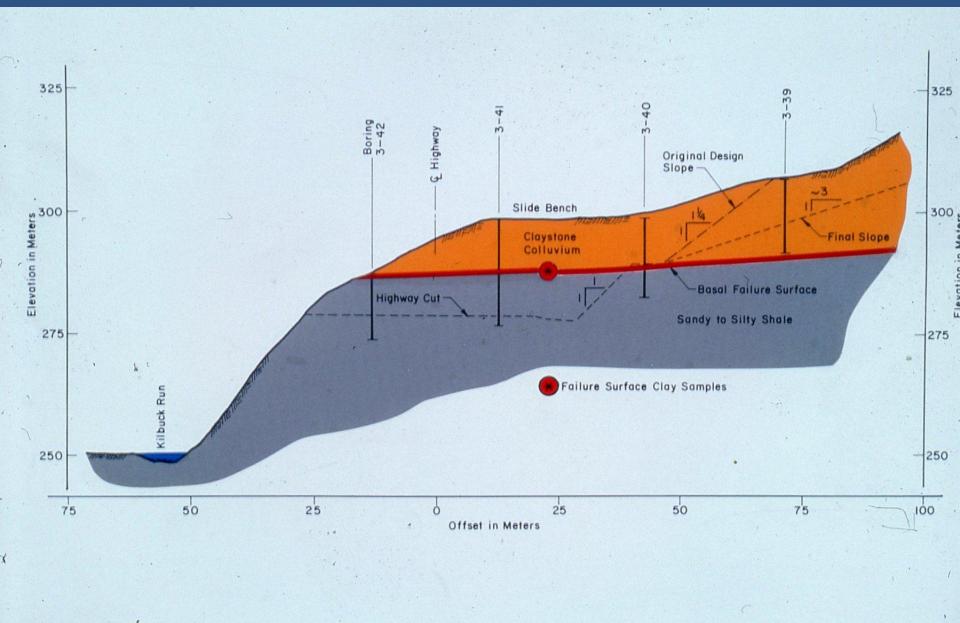
# Marginally Stable Colluvium

These are often reactivated by heavy precipitation and by human activity, e.g., fill loading, toe excavation, surface and subsurface drainage changes

Also have Appalachian heritage of **Fill on Slopes** 









April 14, 1978





September 26, 2006 - Kilbuck (Walmart) Landslide





The Kilbuck Slide should never have occurred.

What caused this slide?

Ignorance, Incompetence, Stupidity, Greed

- These Human Factors in Landslides
- Another Potential Research Area

As George Santayana said:

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

## **Questions?**

