

## Vulcan Havre de Grace Quarry

Timothy Foard

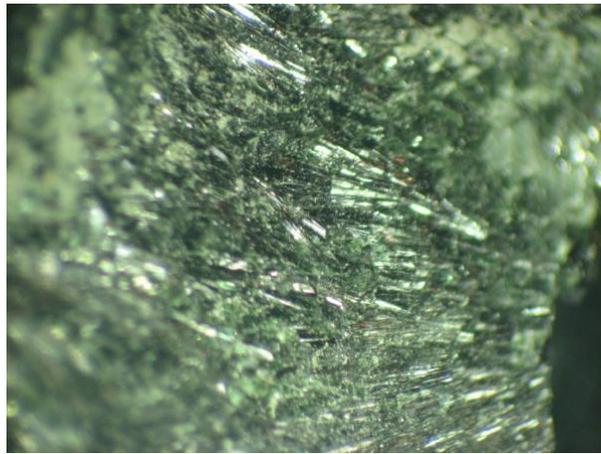
On June 8, 2013 several members of the Southern Maryland, Montgomery County, and Northern VA mineral clubs, and the met at the Vulcan Quarry, Havre de Grace, MD at 7:00 AM. It rained extensively earlier that week, but I was glad that the trip was not cancelled. After a longer than usual safety meeting by the quarry representative, we were led down into the quarry, crossing patches of standing water, until we reached our destination.



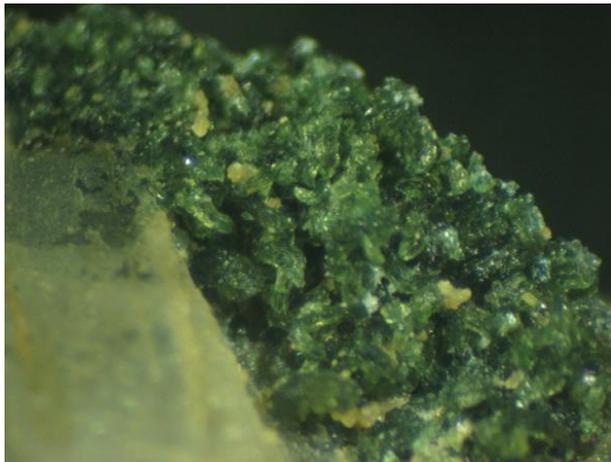
The trap rock consists of largely diabase and gabbro, and metagabbro present. Pyrite cubes were everywhere, but the hardness of the rocks prevents an easy extraction. A few cubes were over 2 inches across; most were 1 inch and under. Some weathered specimens were collected free from the matrix. Some quartz zones were uncommon and interspersed in the diabase. This looks like a good place for micros. After collecting some hand specimens of the host rock for thin sectioning and some pyrite cubes, I shifted focus of the micros. The first couple of hours searching and breaking boulders revealed clusters of actinolite crystals, which were actually rather common. In addition, a small slab of metagabbro contained heulandite druses lining the cracks of the specimen. Some microcrystals of epidote, and a chlorite mineral resembling clinocllore was also collected. It turned out to be a very productive day and we thanked the quarry representative before heading home.



Pyrite in host rock



Actinolite (30x)



Clinochlore? (30x)

