A major result of the Chicxulub impact was a monstrous tsunami that reached up to modern day Illinois. When the water rushed back into the crater it brought untold amounts of impact debris with it. This core shows debris from the tsunami (lighter in the picture and darker in the CT-scan), including cross-bedding from the tsunami waves, and the transition to settled particles on the seafloor. Note the white particles of melt rock flecking the tsunami in the CT-scan. The material in the settling layer includes the particles and surviving plankton that filtered down from the water column. The debris and glass from the tsunami were deposited the first day after the asteroid hit, but scientists are still unclear on how long it took the debris in the settling layer to filter down. Theories range from a matter of weeks to tens of thousands of years. It is a hot topic of current research.

When the Chicxulub asteroid hit, the Earth rebounded, bringing pink granite from 6 miles below the surface. The force of the impact made the surrounding rock temporarily behave like a slow-moving liquid, with deep granite rocks moving upwards and collapsing outwards to form a ring of peaks surrounding the center of the crater. The dark color of the fault zone in the CT-scan shows that the zone was porous and likely a pathway for fluids. The porosity makes it an intriguing place for scientists to look for the recovery of life in the form of microbes in the peak ring.