IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Geologic Division
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado

Mr. F. A. Swenson,
District Geologist,
U. S. Geological Survey,
P. O. Box 839,
Billings, Montana.

SEP 28 1953

Dear Mr. Swenson:

Why?

I am enclosing a preliminary map entitled "Topography of the pre-Pleistocene Bedrock Surface, Souris River Area, North Dakota." Also enclosed is a preliminary map and report entitled "Geology of the Wolf Point Quadrangle, Montana." These have been prepared as part of the program for the development of the Missouri River Basin by the Department of the Interior.

The map and report of the Geology of the Wolf Point Quadrangle, Montana describes an area near the Fort Peck Dam, a part of the Missouri-Souris unit of the Missouri Basin Development Program. They constitute part of a geologic study to furnish basic geologic data pertinent to this Program. The map and report are also timely in that the area is now being extensively explored for oil and the geology herein described should contribute to this phase of the work.

Stale — no structure — wrong — Oil produced now.

The map entitled "Topography of the pre-Pleistocene Bedrock Surface, Souris River Area, North Dakota" covers an area of about 5000 square miles in northwestern North Dakota. This is also an area where intensive geophysical exploration is now being conducted in connection with the search for oil in the Williston Basin. Depths to bedrock can be determined from the map which will aid the geophysical work in drilling shot holes as well as helping to locate buried valleys partly filled with granitic rocks that will influence the geophysical results. The map should also be of value in connection with revised plans for irrigation in the Missouri-Souris Project. Deep lateral canals across the Coteau du Missouri from Garrison Dam are now being considered and depths to bedrock will largely determine the location of this type of construction.

Sincerely yours,

R. C. Becker

R. C. Becker
Missouri Basin Coordinator