



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Omaha District

Reconnaissance Report Deposition In Ft. Randall Reservoir Missouri River - South Dakota

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RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF DEPOSITION IN FT. RANDALL RESERVOIR
JULY 1954

Introduction

From July 13 to 21, 1954, a reconnaissance survey was made through the backwater reach of Ft. Randall Reservoir. The trip started at Ft. Thompson, S.D. (Mile 1032.6) well above the backwater effects and continued downstream past Chamberlain, S.D. (Mile 1014.1), past the mouth of the White River (Mile 1000.0), and ended in the pool proper near the old Wheeler Bridge site (Mile 938.3). (See Plate 1)

The primary purpose of the survey upstream from Chamberlain, S.D. was to obtain a series of bed material samples representing open river conditions prior to inundation by the reservoir. The permanent aggradation ranges above Chamberlain were surveyed in May of the same year. The purpose of the survey downstream from Chamberlain, S.D., was to observe the location, type and characteristics of deposits accumulated in the delta area since completion of the August 1953 survey. This survey was also scheduled in order to develop sampling techniques and to obtain samples for exploratory laboratory tests to be used for more detailed studies in the future.

The survey, being a reconnaissance in nature, was limited in the number of individual observations obtained. Due to this restriction, the findings incorporated in this report provide only a general picture of deposition in the backwater reach. Quantitative data presented in this report should not be considered conclusive.

River and Reservoir Conditions Before and During Survey. The inflow to the reservoir and its pool levels since the time of the survey in July and August 1953 are presented in Plate 2. The maximum pool level prior to this