



5-2-1955

## Letter from E. C. Itschner to Senator Langer Regarding Erosion Downstream of the Garrison Dam, May 2, 1955

E. C. Itschner  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*Garrison Dam*

IN REPLY REFER TO ENGWO

2 May 1955

Honorable William Langer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Langer:

Reference is made to your letter of 25 March 1955 inclosing copy of a letter from a group of farmers concerning erosion of their land located below Garrison Dam. In letter of this office dated 30 March 1955 you were informed that this matter was receiving attention and that you would be advised at an early date.

The lands in question which are located on the flood plain of the Missouri River 10 to 13 miles below the Garrison Dam have been inspected by representatives of the Corps of Engineers. These lands were formed by river deposits over a long period of time and in part have been under cultivation for a number of years. Lands in this area have been eroding away intermittently since the date of our earliest surveys in 1890. In recent years the lands of Messrs. Knoop and Olds have been eroded most severely, those of Mr. Grannis to a lesser extent, and those of Messrs. Marlines and Russell to a still lesser extent. The attached map shows that bank erosion in this area from 1943 to 1952 varied from zero to a maximum of about 1,000 feet and from 1952 to 1955 from zero to about 400 feet. The Garrison Reservoir has been in actual operation only the last 2 years of this period.

The Garrison Reservoir will be in the process of filling for the next five years and the average yearly outflow during this period will be less than the natural flow would have been. In addition, stored waters will be released with lower peak discharges but with sustained moderate discharge rates. These factors should reduce the rate of bank erosion downstream. There will also be, however, new effects of the reservoir, which will tend in the other direction. It is impossible, with our present limited experience of actual operation of the Garrison project, to determine whether the net effect of the reservoir will accelerate or decelerate erosion along the Missouri River downstream of the Garrison Dam. In any event, there is no basis at present to conclude that the operation of Garrison Dam is accelerating downstream erosion rates.

ENGWO

Letter to Honorable William Langer

The Corps of Engineers has no authority at present whereby they could expend Federal funds for construction of the suggested remedial work.

I am pleased to be able to be of assistance to you in this respect and trust that this information is sufficient for your present requirements.

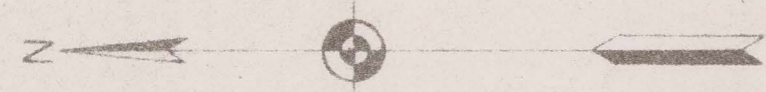
The inclosure to your letter is returned herewith for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



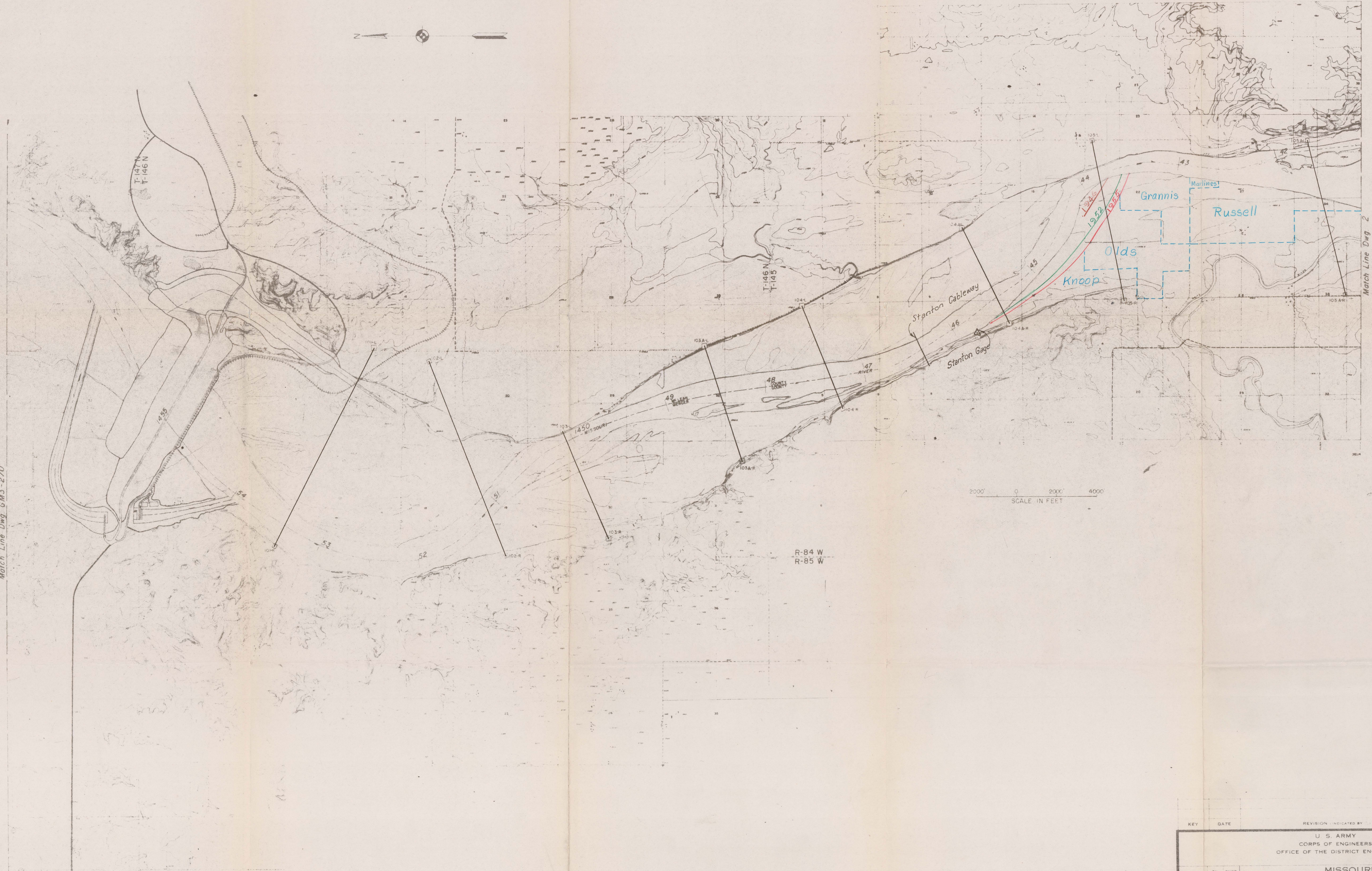
E. C. ITSCHNER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Assistant Chief of Engineers  
for Civil Works

2 Incls  
1 - Map  
2 - Ltr group of farmers  
to Senator Langer dtd  
1 Feb 55



Match Line Dwg. GM3-270

Match Line Dwg. 2



2000 0 2000 4000  
SCALE IN FEET

KEY	DATE	REVISION INDICATED BY	BY	CHKD	APP
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER					
<b>MISSOURI RIVER GARRISON DAM AND RESERVOIR</b>					
DESIGNED	BY	CHKD			
DRAWN	R.C.G.				
TRACED					
INSPECTED					
SUPERVISED					
SUBMITTED	APPROVAL RECOMMENDED				
APPROVED	CHIEF DESIGN BRANCH	CHIEF ENGINEERING DIVISION			
		SCALE	SPEC. NO.		DRAWING NUMBER
COL. C. F. DISTRICT ENGINEER				SHEET 1 OF 5	

February 1, 1955.

Hon. Senator William Langer,  
Washington, D.D.

Dear Mr. Langer,

We are writing you as a group of farmers who own land along the Missouri River, about 7 miles by river below the Garrison Dam. This Dam is being built by the Army Engineers as you know for the Benefit of many people above the Dam and as a measure to insure safety as to flood control lower on the River, this is all very well, but it seems that we who live directly below the Outlet of the Dam, seem to be the forgotten Men, in this great structure.

It appears that our land is being washed away during the winter, in that to our idea is caused by the dropping and raising of the Dam level. This seems to us to be one of the reasons that our land is being eroded so that some of us have lost from 50 to 60 acres of good land. Several farmers have lost as much or more. And it seems that the rest of us are in direct line to loose more land latter. It appears that the West Bank of the river is taking a severe beating, and it has seemed to be a lot worse since the water has been shut of or increased from the outlet of the Dam.

Some of us are now paying taxes on a whole 160 acres when we have just a small fraction of this land, left. We feel that we are being unjustly taken advantage of in this deal. When the river was allowed to take its own course we were never in as much danger of loosing so much land.

It seems to us that an extensive Rip Rapping project is the only means of saving our land. Altho we are not engineers and really have no ideas as how to correct the situation, so that is the reason that we are writing you, knowing that you will take this up with the proper authorities, and then with your help and your suggestions as to just what we can do in getting this before the proper authorities. We may have to band together to get some help on this but we are are that you will try to give us some kind consideration so that we do not have to loose our good bottom lands.

We wish to thank you for your past kindness in dealing with the people of North Dakota and we are sure that you will do all in your power to see that consideration is given us.

We will earnestly await your reply.

Sincerely yours.

Wate Bled  
Chas W Rus  
Melvin Martin

Burton D. ...