

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WYOMING

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FROM OFFICE.

The State of Wyoming
Office of State Geologist
Cheyenne

March 21st, 1903.

Mr Moses Bijur,
New York City.

Dear Sir;-

With your Mr Gierisch I have visited the lands held by your Company at Sparks Butte, East of Douglas, Wyoming and will say I cannot recommend that wells be sunk for oil at that point.

As you are familiar with the ground I will not take up the details of topography etc. of the lands.

The geological conditions there are comparatively simple and may be stated to consist of the Dakota Cretaceous sandstones that outcrop at the top of Sparks Butte, underlain by the clay-shales, marls etc of the Jurassic and the red gypsum beds of the Triassic formations.

This Dakota Sandstone dips easterly at the top of the Butte at an angle of 16 degrees but the dip becomes more flat as one goes east and north, the dip gradually but irregularly passing into the flat formations shown at a point from one and one-half to two miles northeast of the rim of the Butte.

The Butte forms a prominent part of the east and north side of a basin (topographically) caused by the erosion of the top of an immense dome or anticlinal fold in the formation, through which the Platte River ~~passes~~ cuts.

Around the irregular rim of this basin, are noted the formations later than the Dakota, lying more or less irregularly upon it in the order observed in many places in this vicinity.

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M. S. B.

These later formations at Sparks Butte are entirely covered by the wash and clay debris of the vicinity and no indication of their condition or thickness is afforded and no accurate estimate of their extent or importance can be made at the present time.

The Dakota sandstone has been noted at various places in this State as containing oil. The Fort Benton Sandstone immediately above the Dakota has also contained oil in many places but no signs of oil are noted in the sandstones at this point and no oil springs have been found in this vicinity, as has been the case at other places where that oil sandstones outcrop.

In nearly every case where oil has been found in these formations, conditions of occurrence, essentially different from those observed here have prevailed and it may be stated that the occurrence of these formations alone, without the usual signs and conditions of oil occurrence as noted in these later western formations, does not indicate the presence of oil at this point. It is of course possible that oil may exist here but there is nothing to indicate it at the present time, aside from the presence of the Dakota and later formations as above stated, and any drilling here would be purely in the nature of prospect work.

Very Truly Yours,



State Geologist.

Date of Examination.

March 14th, 1903.