



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Branch of Radioactive Materials  
Building 25, Federal Center  
Denver 25, Colorado

August 25, 1961

Mr. R. R. Coats  
U. S. Geological Survey  
345 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, California

Dear Bob:

The memorandum accompanying this note is somewhat later in getting finished and dispatched than it should have been. It was written mainly to preserve a record of what was seen in a rather rapid tour and the tentative and somewhat nebulous ideas stemming from the observations.

Uranium deposits of the kind near Mountain City are sufficiently widespread to suggest that resources of uranium in deposits of this kind might be significant. At the present time, however, too little is known about the critical aspects of the relation of such deposits to their geologic setting and of events that have shaped or taken place in that setting to permit any reasonable definition of that potential.

Although the exploited or discovered deposits near Mountain City are relatively small, study of them would contribute to knowledge of the habits, distribution and relation of such deposits to their setting that would be very useful in helping to understand better the significance of this environment for uranium.

I think that gaining the kind of information that is needed to resolve some of the problems is beyond the scope of what investigations by the AEC are likely to accomplish, even though Bob Cohenour is aware of the problems. I hope that the charter for your project is liberal enough so that you can find an opportunity to help fit the uranium deposits and their possible provenance into the more comprehensive geologic picture that your work will develop.

I am sorry that our visit to the area could not have come at a time when you were there, but timing had to be accommodated in part to the schedule for Mr. Udas of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission.

Best wishes,

*Art*  
Arthur P. Butler, Jr.

Enclosure

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Office of Economic Geology

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