

## Research Comes First

### Research

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Proper research is necessary in any organization which hopes to have adequate knowledge of all factors before committing itself to a project. This is no less true for the State Highway Department.

The Department's research organization is a small one and primarily devotes itself to special projects which are deemed to have far-reaching significance.

The single biggest project undertaken several years ago and completed in 1959 was the Delaware River Basin Water Resources Survey. This was done in cooperation with the Water Pollution Commission and with the help of literally hundreds of other individuals.

The 552 page report, expected to be of great value for over 100 years, was accepted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will become an appendix in the total massive report being published by that government body.

This report is without doubt the most complete ever prepared in the State's history.

In addition to this survey work, the Division prepares qualification criteria for contractors wishing to bid on Department work and also sets up specifications for planting along State highways.

One of the major aids in highway research is the University of Delaware which performs specific jobs for the Department under contract to the Department. The active projects for 1959 included the investigation and preparation of engineering soil maps for the State. These maps will indicate position of the water table and its fluctuations.

Also under study were prestressed concrete slabs and designs for handling runoff and drainage.