

Seattle City Light Flood Control Records, 1917-1978

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle City Light
Title	Seattle City Light Flood Control Records
Dates	1917-1978 (inclusive) 1917 1978
Quantity	.8 cubic foot, (2 boxes)
Collection Number	1206-15
Summary	Records concerning floods and flood control near Seattle City Light hydroelectric projects.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Note

City Light provides electricity and electrical and conservation services to its public and private customers. It is the largest public utility in the Pacific Northwest. Public responsibility for electrical energy dates to 1890 with creation of the Department of Lighting and Water Works. In 1902, Seattle voters passed a bond issue to develop hydroelectric power on the Cedar River under the administration of the Water Department. Electricity from this development began to serve Seattle in 1905. A City Charter amendment in 1910 created the Lighting Department. Under the leadership of Superintendent James D. Ross, the department developed the Skagit River hydroelectric project which began supplying power in 1924. Both public and private power was supplied to Seattle until 1951 when the City purchased the private electrical power supply operations, making the Lighting Department the sole supplier. The Boundary Project in northeastern Washington began operations in 1967 and supplied over half of City Light's power generation. By the early 21st century, approximately ten percent of City Light's income came from the sale of surplus energy to customers in the Northwest and Southwest with the remainder of City Light's financial support coming from customer revenue. The current name of the agency was adopted in 1978 when the Department was reorganized.

Content Description

Records of the Power Management Branch concerning floods and flood control on the Skagit and Cedar Rivers, including correspondence, reports, hydrographic data, manuals and photographs. Also included are court papers, exhibits and correspondence regarding damage suits over flood losses on the Skagit, Cedar and Lewis Rivers.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle City Light Flood Control Records , Record Series 1206-15. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

1206-15: Flood Control Data, 1917-1978

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Cedar River Damage Suits, Drowning (Includes Photographs)	1949-1951
1/2	Cedar River Flood Control Correspondence, Etc.	1925-1978
1/3	Flood Control (Incl Puget Sound Flood Control Council)	1938-1956
1/4	Flood Control (Includes Cedar Falls)	1949-1959
1/5	Lewis River Damage Suits	1934
1/6	Ross Dam Reservoir Regulation Manuals	1953

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/7	Ross Dam Reservoir Regulation Manuals	1955
1/8	Ross Reservoir Operation Data	1953-1965
1/10	Skagit River Flood Report (USGS)	1918
1/11	Skagit River Flood, February 1932 (Includes Photographs)	1932-1933
1/12	Skagit River Flood, October, 1946	1946-1947
2/1	Skagit River Flood, June, 1948	1948
2/2	Skagit River Flood, November 1949	1949
2/3	Skagit River Flood, February 1951 (Includes Photographs)	1951
2/4	Skagit River Flood Control	1933-1948
2/5	Skagit River Flood Control	1948-1952
2/6	Skagit River Flood Control Correspondence	1949-1978
2/7	Skagit River Flood Data	1917-1957
2/8	Skagit River Flood Warning Service	1944-1954
2/9	Skagit River Flood Damage Suit	1946-1951
2/10	Skagit River Flood Damage Suit Exhibits	1945-1951
2/11	Snoqualmie River Flood Control Correspondence	1967-1971

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Cedar River (King County, Wash.)
 Flood control--Washington (State)
 Floods--Washington (State)
 Skagit River (B.C. and Wash.)

Corporate Names :

Seattle City Light
 Seattle (Wash.). Lighting Dept.

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Negatives

Photographic prints

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness
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