

# Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, 1939-1943

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Lighting
<b>Title</b>	Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records
<b>Dates</b>	1939-1943 (inclusive) 1939 1943
<b>Quantity</b>	0.4 cubic foot, (1 box)
<b>Collection Number</b>	1200-12
<b>Summary</b>	Files documenting Electric Home and Farm Authority contracts, administered by the Seattle Department of Lighting (now Seattle City Light), 1939-1943; included are logbooks, payment charts, and correspondence.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives</a> 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 <a href="mailto:archives@seattle.gov">archives@seattle.gov</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Records are open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English

---

## Historical Note

Seattle 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 were 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.

Incorporated in 1934 and run by the Tennessee Valley Authority during the Great Depression, the Electric Home and Farm Authority allowed the purchase of electrical appliances by those families that demonstrated need based on finances. Large appliances were sold at "reasonable prices" to local power companies; families could then purchase an appliance with an Electric Home and Farm Authority loan.

(Source: [TVA: Electricity for All.](#))

## Content Description

Records include log books containing contract information such as date of contract, customer name and address, dealer/vendor number, and contract number. Also includes monthly payment charts, appliances eligible for financing, information for dealers, balance and finance charges for appliances and delinquent payment lists. Delinquent payment lists provide customer name and address, dealer name, and unpaid balance. Correspondence includes customer correspondence, correspondence with dealers, and correspondence between City Light and the Authority. Also included are form samples for requesting the payment of unpaid balances.

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, Record Series 1200-12. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

---

## Detailed Description of the Collection

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

### Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, 1939-1943

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box-volume</a>		
1/1	Collection Log	1940-1941
1/2	Collection Log	1941-1942

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/3	Collection Log	1943
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
1/4	Dealers and Financing	1941
1/5	Past Due Account Letters	undated
1/6	Delinquent List	1943
1/7	Forms and Notices Used by Puget Sound Power and Light on Electric Home and Farm Authority Accounts	1939-1940
1/8	Customers' Letters	1940-1942
1/9	Correspondence with Dealers	1941-1942
1/10	Correspondence with Authority	1941-1943
1/11	Purchase Letters to Dealers	1940

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Household appliances, Electric--Washington (State)--Seattle

Low-income consumers--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Corporate Names :

United States. Electric Home and Farm Authority.

### Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

Finding aid prepared by Scott Cline and Shannon B. Lynch

2004