

Seattle City Light Field System Operations Digital Photograph Collection, 2005-2007

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle City Light
Title	Seattle City Light Field System Operations Digital Photograph Collection
Dates	2005-2007 (inclusive)
Quantity	166 digital image files
Collection Number	1204-18
Summary	Images of damage to transmission poles and transformers caused by auto accidents and weather-related incidents.
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

Historical Note

City Light provides electricity, 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 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

Features images of damage to transmission poles and transformers caused by auto accidents and weather-related incidents. Also includes images of damage caused by high winds in the November 2006 Hanukkah Eve Windstorm. Images can be viewed online in the Photograph Index. Search "1204-18" in the [Photograph Index](#).

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item number.] Seattle City Light Field System Operations Digital Photograph Collection, Record Series 1204-18. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Photographs acquired through the Seattle Municipal Archives Digital Image Management Program.

Future Additions

This series may grow due to continued accessioning through the Digital Image Management Program. This finding aid will be updated to reflect additional accessions.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Neighborhoods--Washington (State)--Seattle
Traffic Accidents--Washington (State)--Seattle
Transmission Lines--Washington (State)--Seattle
Weather--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

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

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Julie B. Viggiano
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