

Seattle City Light General and Plant Ledgers, 1908-1982

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle City Light
Title	Seattle City Light General and Plant Ledgers
Dates	1908-1982 (inclusive) 1908 1982
Quantity	1.2 cubic feet, (2 boxes), (Includes 35 reels of microfilm) 16 mm and 35 mm microfilm
Collection Number	1202-03
Summary	Financial records of Seattle Lighting Department
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

General ledger, 1908-1915. Microfilm copies of City Light's general and plant ledgers, 1935-1982. Primarily microfilm copies; only eight folders of ledger in paper form.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle City Light General and Plant Ledgers , Record Series 1202-03. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Preservation Note

Microfilm reader required to view microfilm.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Electric power--Washington--Seattle

Electric utilities--Washington--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Seattle City Light

Seattle (Wash.). Lighting Dept.

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness
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