

# Seattle City Light Glass Lantern Slides, 1903-1945

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle City Light
<b>Title</b>	Seattle City Light Glass Lantern Slides
<b>Dates</b>	1903-1945 (inclusive)
<b>Quantity</b>	60 slides
<b>Collection Number</b>	1204-03
<b>Summary</b>	Slides related to the development of public power in Seattle.
<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

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## 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 department 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 in 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 1973 when the Department was reorganized.

## Content Description

Slides related to the development of public power in Seattle. Includes landscapes at Cedar Falls and the Skagit; promotional materials comparing City Light facilities to private companies; examples of

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv96591>

electrical appliances and applications of electricity; and views of Diablo Dam; the Skagit River Railway, Cedar Falls Power Plant, and the Denny Hill Regrade. Slides have been digitized and are available for download on our digital platform at the link below. [View 1204-03 online](#)

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item number.], Seattle City Light Glass Plate Slides, Record Series 1204-03. Box [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

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## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Cedar Falls Power Plant (Wash.)  
Cedar River Watershed (King County, Wash.)  
Denny Regrade  
Diablo Dam (Wash.)  
Electric meters  
Electric power--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Electric heating--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Electric lighting--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Electric utilities--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Electricity  
Electricity Consumption  
Exhibitions  
Floods  
Gorge Dam (Wash.)  
Hydroelectric power plants  
Interiors  
Landslides  
Residential Buildings  
Rivers and streams  
Ross Dam (Wash.)  
Skagit Hydroelectric Project --Washington (State)--Seattle  
Tourism  
Transportation  
Utility poles  
Vessels  
Water-power--Washington (State)--Seattle  
**Corporate Names :**  
Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Lighting  
Seattle City Light  
**Geographical Names :**  
Seattle (Wash.)

Skagit River (B.C. and Wash)

Finding aid prepared by Julie B. Viggiano  
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