

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG603 Omaha Public Power District

Records: 1936; 1967-1972

Cubic ft.: 1

No. of Items: 21 volumes & 1 item

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Nebraska Power Company, a Maine corporation, had a franchise for the sale and distribution of electricity within the city of Omaha since December 1884. Concerned about its power future, and prodded by the Federal Holding Co. Act of 1935, Omaha entered into a 3-way contract with American Power and Light Company, the holding company for its Nebraska Power Company, September 19, 1939. The terms of the contract were not fulfilled and the Omaha City Council passed a resolution on February 13, 1945 cancelling the franchise of Nebraska Power and American Power and Light Companies.

The Nebraska Power Company was granted a license from day to day to operate in Omaha and rates were set by the City Council.

After several years of controversy, Consumers Public Power District offered to buy Nebraska Power. Omahans did not want an outstate power company owning or controlling their electric utilities. As a result, a commission was formed to study the problem. Later the 1943 Legislature formed the Omaha Peoples Power Commission supported by American Power, Nebraska Power, and Omaha officials to acquire Nebraska Power Company for municipal ownership in Omaha. Controversy existed concerning this legislation because of the fact that no vote was required from the people to acquire property.

A local non-profit corporation was formed to hold the stock of Nebraska Power in trust until problems were resolved. A contract was signed on December 26, 1944 between Loup River Public Power District and Central West Irrigation Company (later named Omaha Electric Company, Inc.) to accomplish this purpose. This action was financed by \$15,600,000 in bonds issued by the Eastern Division of the Loup River Public Power District.

The 1945 Legislature repealed the 1943 bill and placed the Omaha district under the general laws regulating all power districts in the state. Also, in 1945, the first Board of Directors was appointed for the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). On October

19, 1946 a note was signed by the board for \$42 million to acquire the property of Nebraska Power Company from the Omaha Electric Company. Shortly after a \$42 million bond issue was sold at a 1.983% interest rate to complete the financing of the purchase from the Omaha company. OPPD went into full operation in 1947.

ADDED ENTRIES:**

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station (Washington County, Neb.)

NUCLEAR ENERGY

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (FORT CALHOUN, NEB.)

ATOMIC POWER see NUCLEAR ENERGY

ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

POWER RESOURCES--NEBRASKA

POWER PLANTS--NEBRASKA

United States. Atomic Energy Commission

WASHINGTON COUNTY (NEB.)--HISTORY

Nebraska Power Company

Chronological Index - 2

The Omaha Public Power District handled its own generation, transmission, and distribution functions.

During its first 15-year period of operation the demand for energy increased 165.5%. Additional generation facilities were added and by 1962 it encompassed the areas of Dodge, Washington and Douglas counties to the north; Saunders, Sarpy, and Cass counties to the south; as well as the city of Omaha, a total of 2500 square miles. On January 1, 1965, OPPD and the East Nebraska Public Power District were consolidated. In 1968 a \$31 million addition was added to its North Omaha plant. Today (1990) OPPD serves all of the counties previously mentioned as well as Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson, Burt, and Colfax counties. The area also includes the community of Carter Lake, Iowa and comprises as a whole 5,000 square miles. This district sells about one-half of all the electricity used in Nebraska.

The Omaha Public Power District is credited with the most intensive area and industrial promotion effort in the state. It was considered an economic influence for the Omaha retail trade area and a factor in Omaha's industrial success. OPPD is located in an ideal electrical situation, a compacted area with heavy local demands and one of the fastest growing areas of the state. In addition to its own generation facilities, OPPD has interconnections with Iowa Public Service Company, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas Gas and Electric Company, Kansas Power and Light, St. Joseph Light and Power Company, and Nebraska Public Power District.

In 1964 OPPD directors authorized condemnation of a 150-acre site in Washington County for a fossil-fueled power plant scheduled to begin service in 1973. The site, acquired in 1966, was three miles northeast of Fort Calhoun on the southwest bank of the Missouri River. Application was made to the Nebraska Power Review Board in June of 1966 for construction of this plant. In May of 1967, the Power Review Board authorized construction of a nuclear-fueled plant on the site. In that same year application was sent to the Atomic Energy Commission to construct the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station. After a public hearing held at Blair, Nebraska, April 8, 1968, a provisional construction permit was issued on June 7, 1968 by the Division of Reactor Licensing of the Atomic Energy Commission. OPPD submitted its Environmental Report for an operating license of the station in March of 1971.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This bulk of this collection, Subgroup One, consists of reports concerning the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station - Unit 1, 1967 & 1972. Included is an application to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for licenses to construct, own, use and operate a "utilization facility" in Washington County, Nebraska by the Omaha Public Power District to be known as the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station. Also included is a facility Description and Safety Analysis Report which served as an exhibit before the Atomic Energy Commission. This material was received from the Governor's vault at the State Capitol in 1972. Also included in the Final Environmental Statement of the station presented to the Atomic Energy Commission in August, 1972. This volume was previously shelved in the NSHS Library.

Included in Subgroup Two, Miscellaneous, is one diagram (8.5"x14") of a Steam Electric Generator, by Richard Peterson, Nebraska Power Co., March 19, 1936, and the silver anniversary annual report of OPPD.

For additional records relating to the Omaha Public Power District and the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, see RG066, Nebraska. Department of Environmental Control.

DESCRIPTION

SUBGROUP ONE FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, 1967-1972

SERIES ONE REPORTS, 1967-1972

Vol. 1	Fort Calhoun Station - Unit #1 Application for Licenses, 1967
Vols. 2-4	Fort Calhoun Station - Unit #1 Facility Description and Safety Analysis Report, 1967
Box 1	
Vols. 1-6	Supplements #1 thru #6, 1967
Vol. 7	Final Environmental Statement related to operation of Fort Calhoun Station Unit #1, Omaha Public Power District, Docket #50-285, August 1972

RG603

Omaha Public Power District

Sheet 4

SUBGROUP TWO

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1936, 1971

SERIES ONE

ANNUAL REPORTS, 1971

Box 1

Vol. 8

Silver Anniversary Annual Report, 1971

RG603

Omaha Public Power District

Sheet 5

SUBGROUP TWO MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS (cont)

SERIES TWO MAPS AND DIAGRAMS, 1936

Box 1

Item #1

Diagram - Steam Electric Generator drawn
Company, March 19, 1936

END OF INVENTORY

JEP/DJJ/pmc 4/8/1972

PMC/Wp50 12/20/1990