

Public Power in Springfield

where we came from and where we're heading

1920



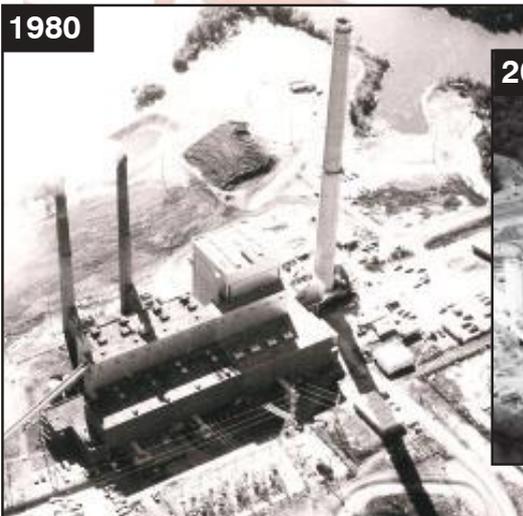
1944



1959



1980



2008



The history of Public Power in Springfield spans more than 125 years and, as with most histories, includes both prideful achievements and difficult challenges. Fortunately—over the course of City Water, Light & Power’s story—the positive experiences have far outweighed the negative. Here are just a few of the highlights of a century’s worth of events that have moved our municipal utility forward to where we are today.

1881-1882 Springfield’s first electric company—Springfield Steam Supply and Electric Company (forerunner of Central Illinois Light Company)—is formed and installs 20 electric street lights around the town square.



1894 Capital Electric Company, another private company, is organized to provide cheaper power for street lighting. In return for a franchise to operate in Springfield, the company makes a deal with the City Council to turn its power plant over to the City as soon as profits allow all initial investors to be repaid.



1900 Capital Electric Company turns over its plant to the City of Springfield at no cost to taxpayers. The City leases the plant back to Capital Electric to operate for five years until the State of Illinois grants municipal governments the right to operate commercial electric utilities.



1905-1906 Capital Electric’s lease expires but the company’s new management refuses to relinquish the plant. Following a riot in the City Council chambers, Mayor H.H. Devereaux sends a wagon-load of police to retake the plant for the City on October 10, 1906.

1911 Springfield adopts a commission form of government. The first Commissioner of Public Property, Willis J. Spaulding, champions combining the City’s water and electric plants and expanding electric generation capabilities in order to provide retail electric service.



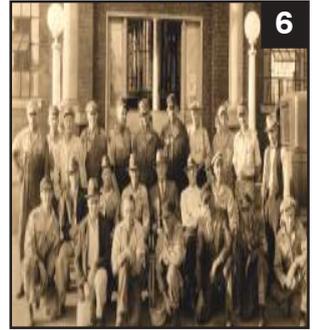
1912-1915

The City builds a new riverside water pumping station and installs a 750-kilowatt (kW) electric generator in the pumping station. Authority to purchase the generator is granted by a public referendum in 1914. The majority wins by less than 700 votes. Also during this period, the utility builds a transmission line from the river to the town and begins accepting the first retail electric customers.



1916

In a newspaper ad explaining the need for a new, back-up generator, Spaulding identifies the utility as *City Water, Light & Power*, the first-ever use of that name. CWLP is born.



1918-1921

A privately owned utility, Springfield Gas and Electric Company files suit "to restrain [CWLP] from producing and selling electricity to private consumers." The suit reaches the U.S. Supreme Court. In November, Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes rules in the City's favor. Voters approve a \$400,000 bond issue to enlarge the riverside electric plant.



1923-1930

Spaulding leads efforts to build a new lake and electric and water purification plants southeast of Springfield. Voters pass a \$2.5 million bond issue to finance the lake and plant construction, which begins in 1930.

1935

The Lakeside Power Plant is completed and placed into operation with a 10,000-kW (10-megawatt) generator.

1939-1941

The first expansion of Lakeside Power Plant is completed, adding a 15-MW generator to the original 10-MW unit. A second 15-MW unit is added in 1941. The old Riverside plant is decommissioned. Metal from the plant is salvaged and sold to industries involved in the war effort.



1943

CWLP builds a 34.5-kilovolt interconnection with Illinois Power (IP) and begins selling electricity to IP for use by war industries in Illiopolis.



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1946-1949

Growth in CWLP's war-era electrical load necessitates expansion of Lakeside Power Plant. Construction begins on "Plant 2," which will contain generator #4, a 20-MW unit placed into service in 1949.

1953

Lakeside unit #5, another 20-MW generator, is placed into service in Plant 2.

1959-1961

Expansion of Lakeside Power Plant continues. Lakeside unit #6, a 33-MW generator, is placed into service in Plant 2.

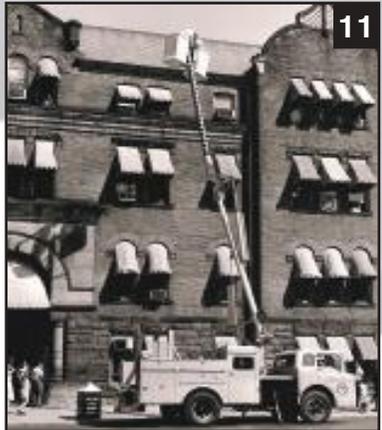
1965

Lakeside Power Plant is enlarged for the last time with installation of a new 33-MW generator. CWLP's nameplate generating capacity now stands at 146 MW. Utility officials begin planning a large new power plant to meet the tremendous load growth anticipated for the near future. This year the American Public Power Association recognizes CWLP as the outstanding public utility in the U.S.



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CWLP files a complaint with the Federal Power Commission against the Illinois-Missouri power pool, Illinois Power and Central Illinois Light Company saying the pool is discriminating against the utility in its efforts to connect with the pool at rates equitable to those received by other utilities.



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1966-1968

CWLP breaks ground for the \$15 million, 80-MW Dallman Power Plant, which begins operation on June 1, 1968. Less than three months later, the Dallman and Lakeside Plants produce 221 MW of power, just 5 MW shy of the two plants' combined nameplate capacity.

CWLP reaches an agreement to buy out CILCO's Springfield electric franchise, making CWLP Springfield's sole electricity provider.



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1970

The newly formed Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) files suit against CWLP charging the utility with violating the state's air pollution laws and calling for a penalty of \$10,000 plus \$1,000 for each day the alleged violation continues. Utility officials say they are making progress on an antipollution program continuously approved by the state but are behind schedule due to delays in the delivery and installation of necessary equipment. The suit will drag on for three years, until the Illinois Pollution Control Board rules in 1973 that the City has made sufficient efforts to improve the quality of emissions from the Lakeside and Dallman Power Plants.



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1972

Unit #2, another 80-MW generator, is added to the Dallman Plant. CWLP installs an electromagnetic precipitator on the Dallman smoke stack to remove fly ash and soot from the smoke before it enters the atmosphere.

1975

CWLP begins expansion of the Dallman Power Plant to add a third generating unit in spite of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) refusal to grant a construction permit. IEPA insists the utility must also build a "scrubber" to remove sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from the new unit's flue gas.



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1977

CWLP and IEPA reach an agreement that will allow Dallman 3 to operate using high-sulfur Illinois coal until a scrubber can be built in 1980.

In December, a coal strike begins, forcing the utility to add a coal strike emergency surcharge to customers bills and threatening utility operations before ending the following year.

1978

Dallman 3 begins operation, bringing CWLP's total generating capacity to 557 MW. The 11-story Dallman 3 boiler burns 86.4 tons (nearly 4 full truckloads) of coal per hour when operating at full capacity.

A Good Friday ice storm causes massive damage to CWLP's electric system.



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1980

The City Council approves a 25-year coal contract, expected save the City \$1.5 million, between CWLP and the new Turris Coal Mine in Elkhart.

Construction of the \$16 million Dallman 3 SO₂ scrubber, which will remove over 90% of SO₂ from Dallman 3 flue gas, is completed.



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The utility creates the Energy Conservation Office (later renamed the Energy Services Office) to implement the residential energy audit program mandated by the U.S. Department of Energy.

1982-1983

To encourage customers to practice energy efficiency and conservation, the Energy Conservation Office introduces the utility's first efficiency rebate programs.



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The EPA sues CWLP for air quality standards violations, leading to a settlement calling for the utility to make \$22 million worth of environmental improvements, including constructing new electro-magnetic precipitators at Lakeside; replacing the Dallman precipitators; and building a new, taller smoke stack for Dallman units 1 and 2.

1991-1994

CWLP builds the Washington Street substation; builds a new 138-kV transmission line between Dallman and the Eastdale substation; begins installation of a fiber optic communication network and SCADA, a computerized generation and distribution monitoring system.



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1995-1997

CWLP builds the 118-MW dual-fuel Interstate Peaking Turbine to help meet summer peak demand, bringing total generating capacity to 602 MW.

The utility continues to expand its fiber optic network, linking more utility and City facilities, and reaches an agreement with Springfield School District 186 that allows the District to utilize part of the fiber's excess capacity to create a wide-area network and internet connection for its facilities. Over the next decade, several other local educational, governmental, medical and commercial facilities will be added to CWLP's fiber optic network.



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2000-2001

CWLP builds a new SO₂ scrubber for Dallman units 1 and 2 using a grant from the State of Illinois to cover half the \$34 million price tag.



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CWLP adds three diesel generators to serve as emergency backup power for the utility's water pumps, as well as "black start" capability for Dallman units 1 and 2.

2002-2003

CWLP builds a \$76 million selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system to control nitrogen oxide emissions from the three Dallman generating units.

2005

CWLP receives a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to build a new 200-MW coal-fired power plant. Attempts by the Sierra Club to block the permit are rescinded after the utility agrees to greatly expand its energy efficiency programs, add 120 MW of wind power to its portfolio, and make operating efficiency improvements to its existing power plants. When the new plant is completed in 2009, the remaining two Lakeside units (#6 and #7) will be decommissioned.



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2006

CWLP earns the American Public Power Association's highest RP₃ certification for its proficiency in providing safe and reliable electric power.

Twin tornadoes strike Springfield, causing more than \$12 million damage to the utility's infrastructure.

2007

An explosion, caused by equipment failure, rocks Dallman Power Plant, destroying unit #2.



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Construction of Unit 4 proceeds at a rapid pace, raising the likelihood that the plant will be completed ahead of schedule.

Replacement of Dallman unit 2 also proceeds quickly.

CWLP works to meet new challenges, including how to mitigate the impact of boron released into the water supply from the power plant and impending regulations governing mercury emissions into the air.



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- CUTLINES** **1** Two turbines and guard at Riverside pumping station, Feb. 2, 1918 **2** Front view of Riverside pumping/electric station, 1920's **3** 5-ton CWLP utility truck in front of substation, 1922 **4** Construction of new boiler at Riverside Plant, 1920's **5** Plant employees in front of Riverside Power Plant, Oct. 12, 1934 **6** Welder at Lakeside Power Plant, circa 1938 **7** People looking at new Lakeside unit 2 turbine, Dec. 1938 **8** Winter aerial of Lakeside (unit 1 only) and Filter Plant, pre-1939 **9** Lakeside Plant #2 under construction, circa 1947 **10** Crews repairing street light in front of Hay Homes, circa 1946 **11** CWLP bucket truck in front of old City Hall, 1958 **12** Ground-breaking ceremony for Dallman 1, July 1966 **13** New SCADA system at 10th and Miller, 1994 **14** Splicing fiber optic cable, May 2002 **15** Groundbreaking for Scrubber 31 and 32 **16** Nighttime photograph of the Power Plant, 1998 **17** SO₂ Scrubber, Jan. 2002 **18** Energy Experts Bob Crouteau and Scott Hanauer, CityLights Program, 1999 **19** Construction of the Interstate Turbine, 1995 **20** Interstate Turbine, 1997 **21** RP₃ certification truck decal, 2006 **22** Tornado damage on West Cook Street, March 2006 **23** Aerial photo showing ground cleared for Unit 4, March 2006 **24** Groundbreaking for Dallman Unit 4, Nov. 28, 2006 **25** Construction of Unit 4 stack, May 2007 **26** Scrubber absorber vessel (l) and tower (r), Jan. 2008 **27** New generator ends its journey from Japan, Aug. 2007 **28** Unit 4 aerial photo, CWLP Plant complex, April 2008