

Hydroelectric and Kirk Power Plant Operation Records

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center
Title	Hydroelectric and Kirk Power Plant Operation Records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1918-1965
Date [inclusive]	1918-1998
Extent	43.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The Hydroelectric and Kirk Power Plant Operation Records consists of daily operation logs from the Homestake Mining Company's power plants. The bulk of the records date between 1918 and 1965.

Historical Note

The Homestake Mining Company began to provide electricity to various mine workings in 1888 using dynamos from the Edison United Manufacturing Company. By the late 1890s, most of Homestake's operations were utilizing electricity, but with dynamos being expensive, Homestake began to look into how to generate their electricity locally. In 1904 Homestake's first hydroelectric plant was constructed a mile from the mouth of the Spearfish Canyon. To procure water rights, Homestake agreed to supply power to the town of Spearfish and bought the Spearfish Electric Light and Power Company. The plant worked well, but it wasn't cost-effective to send power from the plant to Lead. The company decided to construct a larger plant closer to Lead using water from ditches the company already held rights for, near Englewood.

The Englewood Hydroelectric Plant was commissioned in 1906 and replaced steam power in the Monroe and Mineral Point Mills. The Englewood plant ran until 2001. In the summer of 1908, plans were made to construct a larger plant in lower Spearfish Canyon near the fish hatchery. This plant, Hydroelectric No. 1, began construction in 1909 and was completed in 1910. Workers utilized power from the 1904 hydroelectric plant to construct the pipelines and tunnels.

Work started on Hydroelectric No. 2 at Maurice in Spearfish Canyon in 1916 and was completed in 1918. After its completion, Homestake converted the Golden Gate and Old Brig hoists from steam power to electricity. Hydroelectric No. 2 operated from 1918 until it was decommissioned in October 2003. After 1918, with abundant hydroelectric power available, Homestake undertook new projects, including implementing an electric hoist for Ellison and air raises between levels. By 1925 Homestake was supplying all of its own electric needs.

In the 1930s, Homestake realized more power was needed to keep up with the increasing costs of gold mining and the Ross Shaft construction. With no more streams or rivers readily available, the company decided to build a coal-fired power plant in 1934. Costs for operating the Kirk Power Plant were kept low by Homestake obtaining the coal from its Wyodak operation in Gillette, Wyoming. The Kirk Power Plant's ownership and operation was transferred by Homestake to the Black Hills Power and Light Company in 1954. Two years later, Wyodak was sold to a subsidiary of Black Hills Power and Light. In the early 1990s, Black Hills Power and Light announced their intention to build a substation behind the Kirk Power Plant and closed the plant.

Scope and Contents Note

The collection includes two different types of operation records from the Homestake power plants. There are bound ledger books containing sheets with daily recordings for the hydroelectric plants and the

Kirk Power Plant, and there are individual cards for the hydroelectric plants. The books date from 1935 through 1998, and the cards date between 1918 and 1965.

Arrangement Note

The records are arranged chronologically. Books contain records from all the power plants unless noted in the title. Some years have more than one book. The daily report cards are records from all the hydroelectric plants. Please see box list for more information.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is housed at the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center with no restrictions to access. The collection may be utilized during normal operating hours or by appointment.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

These materials were transferred as a portion of one donation from the Homestake Mining Company on May 26, 2005.

Processing Information

This collection was processed in August 2020-December 2020 by Hannah Marshall Bawden. Assistance provided by Jim Petersen.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional archival materials related to the Kirk Power Plant and the hydroelectric plants can be found in the Homestake Mining Company Collection.

Collection Inventory

Spearfish 1918 Book

1935 Book

1936 Book

1937 Book

1938 Book

1939 Book

1940 Book

1941 Book

1942 Book

1943 Book

1944 Book

1945 Book

1946 Book

1947 Book

1948 Book

1949 Book

1950 Book

1951 Book

1952 Book

1953 Book

1954 Book

1955 Book

1956 Book

Black Hills Power 1956 Book

Black Hills Power 1957 Book

1958 Book

1959 Book

1957 January - March Book

1957 March- December Book

1958 January - March Book

1958 March - December Book

1959 Book

1960 Book

1961 January - March Book

1961 March - December Book

Kirk Power Plant 1962 Book

1962 Book

1963 Book

1964 January - March Book

1964 March - December Book

Kirk Power Plant 1965 Book

1966 Book

Kirk Power Plant 1966 Book

1967 Book

Kirk Power Plant 1968, Two Books

Kirk Power Plant 1969, Two Books

Kirk Power Plant 1970 Book

1971 January - March Book

1971 March - December Book

1972 Book

Kirk Power Plant 1972 Book

1973 Book

1974 Book

1975 Book

1976 Book

1977 Book

1978 Book

1979 Book

1980 Book

1981-1982 Book

1983-1984 Book

1985 Book

1986 Book

1987 Book

1988 Book

1989 Book

1990 and 1992 Book

1991 Book

1993 and 1995 Book

1994 Book

1996 Book

1997 Book

1998 Book

Box

Daily Report Cards, 1918-1930

1

Daily Report Cards, 1934-1940

2

Daily Report Cards, 1950-1965

3