

THE SUNDAY DENVER POST

VOL. 64, NO. 40

HOME
EDITION

DENVER, COLO.—Climate Capital of the West—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1957

\$19 Million Power Unit Started by PSC

By GENE LINDBERG
Denver Post Staff Writer

Denver's enormous and ever increasing growth was dramatized electrically Friday when officials of the Public Service Company of Colorado broke ground for a new \$19 million, 100,000-kilowatt steam-electric generator station at E. 62nd Ave. and Franklin St.

On the same day, they flipped the switch putting on the line the new

Starts New Plant



E. Loiseau, president of Public Service Co., breaks ground for the Cherokee power plant to be built by the company at E. 62d and Franklin St. With him are M. M. Koch (left), vice president; LeRoy R. Patterson (second from right), assistant vice president, and Ben Snow, contractor.

100,000-kilowatt turbo-electric generator just completed as an addition to the Arapahoe steam-electric station at 2601 S. Platte River Dr. in South Denver.

That's generator enough, according to John E. Loiseau, president of Public Service, to supply the present electrical needs of a city of 250,000 people. Only ten years ago, in 1945, this one new generator could have lighted and powered all of Denver.

MORE EXPANSION SEEN

Yet so fast is Denver's demand for current growing, industrially and populationwise, Loiseau said, that the new east Denver generating plant, to be known as the Cherokee station, will be needed by the time its original 100,000-kilowatt unit is ready for service in mid-1957.

Eventually the new Cherokee station can be expanded to a million-kilowatt plant, Loiseau said, for its 130-acre site will permit vast expansion northward. Originally the site was homesteaded by Colorado pioneers and was farmland until recently.

(Electricity demand tops area's growth. Page 34C, col. 2)

Electricity Demand Tops Area's Growth

See story on page 1 also.

With the addition of the new 100,000 kilowatt generator now on the line at the Arapahoe steam-electric station here, that station's total capacity is 232,000 kilowatts, John E. Loiseau, president of the Public Service Co., said Saturday.

That would have been enough electricity to power the company's entire statewide electrical system only ten years ago, right after the war's end in 1945.

Postwar growth of Denver and the state made it necessary to add more than 100,000 kilowatts of generating capacity at the company's Zuni plant here; 15,000 kilowatts in Grand Junction, a

like amount in Alamosa. In 1951 the Arapahoe plant went on the line with 132,000 kilowatts.

Now, with the latest Arapahoe plant addition, the company's system capacity is 577,600 kilowatts. The present plans of the company expect the total to reach the 1-million-watt mark some time before 1965. That's nearly double present capacity.

Demand for electricity, company officials pointed out at a luncheon for representatives of press and radio held Friday in the Brown Palace hotel, grows faster than population. Since July 1, 1945, the company's electric customers have increased 75 pct., but the customers' use of electricity has zoomed 109 pct.

This faster increase of electrical demand is the result of vast increases in the numbers and size of electrical appliances. Back in the 1930's Loiseau recalls, there were only nineteen appliances in average home use; now there are 56, including television sets, garbage disposal units, dishwashers, laundry driers and many other devices completely unknown only a quarter-century ago.

Future increases of generating capacity at the Cherokee station, Loiseau said, probably will be made in greater than 100,000-kilowatt unit steps. It soon may be necessary to jump to generators more than twice that big. But Denver's generator expansion shortly may be coming at the rate of 100,000 kilowatts a year to keep pace with growth and increased customer demands.