

South Carolina Electric
& Gas Company

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two units, 12,500 kw in 1925 and 30,000 kw in 1926. A transmission line was constructed from the plant to Spartanburg to serve an affiliated company, South Carolina Gas & Electric Company. In 1927 this company along with other affiliated properties located in North Carolina and north and west of Union, S. C., were sold to Duke Power Company. Another 30,000 kw unit was added at Parr Steam in 1929 to protect firm power contracts in the area, and in 1940 capacity of the station was increased to 80,000 kilowatts by the installation of an additional boiler.

After completion of Parr Steam Plant, transmission and distribution lines were extended to serve communities in the counties of Calhoun, Edgefield, Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda, and Union. Between 1925 and 1930 the Company acquired electric systems serving towns throughout this area where many small power plants, some municipally owned, others privately operated, had popped up. Due to lack of capital for expansion and equipment, quality of service and operational standards were not of the highest. Residential rates averaged 11¢ per kwh and many communities had no service at all. In some instances water works, ice houses, and fishing ponds were included in the acquisition of electric plant.

Batesburg was one of the few towns in the area where electric service was maintained 24 hours a day from a plant consisting of two steam engines, one 180 kw and the other 60 kw, driving two alternators. Shavings and sawdust were used for boiler fuel, and electricity was 14¢ per kilowatt hour. When this rate was reduced by Broad River Power Company, the electric load built up so fast that the steam engines had to be run with governors blocked with a piece of wood tied to a rope running to the boiler room so that firemen could remove the blocks immediately should the electric load be interrupted. This condition existed about 60 days before the Company could supply power from its transmission lines.

Service to Bowman, including about 12 street lights of 40 watts, was furnished from sundown to midnight from a 30 kw crude oil engine connected to a 110 volt d.c. generator. The plant operator, living in an apartment over the plant, ran a filling station during the day. Neeses, with approximately 15 customers and Rowesville with about 12 customers and six street lights, were served from similar 1½ kw d.c. 110 volt generator plants. Service to Norway was also from a 1½ kw Delco plant which had been out of service for several months before purchased by Broad River Power Company.