

The Benefits of Municipal Ownership of Your Public Utility

More and more, with the passage of the years, should the citizens of Houlton become aware of the extent of the debt they owe to those far-sighted and public spirited citizens of half a century ago whose enterprise made it possible for the town to acquire full ownership of the three public utility departments that are included under the name of the Houlton Water Company.

It is appropriate, on the occasion of the observance of the 150th birthday of this community, that we acknowledge that debt and try, partially, to estimate its dimensions in terms of the dollars the municipally owned Houlton Water Company has earned for users of its services over the years as well as the indirect benefits that have accrued from it to every taxpayer.

The return arises from two main sources. First, of course, is the annual dividend which the company pays each year, out of its earnings, into the treasury of the town. This has the effect of lowering taxes by making it unnecessary to raise a like amount of money by taxation. Second source of financial benefit comes from the lower rate structure users of electricity are obliged to pay because their utility services are publicly and not privately owned. A third and more indirect benefit is that derived from increased and improved services and equipment that is provided and paid for out of earnings that do not have to go into stock dividends, with a corresponding appreciation in capital growth and capital value.

DIVIDENDS TO THE TOWN*

A COMPARISON OF 1956 DOMESTIC RATES

GROWTH OF OPERATING PROGRAM

DIVIDENDS TO THE TOWN

1903	\$ 960.30
1910	\$ 19,444.68
1920	\$ 42,878.93
1930	\$ 61,270.31
1940	\$ 160,761.84
1950	\$ 425,761.84
1956	\$ 521,768.84

* Total amount paid up to the year indicated

A COMPARISON OF 1956 DOMESTIC RATES

Giving an idea of the savings our customers receive as compared to other utility companies.

Company	Ave. Domestic Usage per year in KWH	Average Cost per KWH in cents	Increased cost per KWH over HWC in cents	Ave. annual total savings to HWC customers in dollars
HWC	3,015	2.81		
Co. A	2,521	3.26	0.45	35,786
Co. B	1,949	3.90	1.09	86,683

GROWTH OF OPERATING PROPERTY*

1903	\$ 80,000
1910	\$ 218,000
1920	\$ 348,000
1930	\$ 553,866
1940	\$ 795,640
1950	\$ 1,447,500
1957 (Est)	\$ 1,883,000

* Value as carried on the books of the company

OPERATING PERSONNEL TODAY

PAUL W. COLEMAN, *Superintendent*

The First Board of Directors:

President	C. H. Pierce
Sec. - Treas.	J. A. Browne
Director	Thomas P. Putnam
Director	W. A. Dykeman
Director	Franklin W. Pearce

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

Guy F. Smith	Line Supt.
Edward R. Tozier	Line Foreman
Clarence Jacques	Lineman 1C
Reynold Plourde	Lineman 3C
Reynold Plourde	Lineman 2C
Leo Hovey	Lineman 3C
John Crowley	Groundman

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Guy F. Smith	Chief Electrician
W. E. Lewis	Electrician Foreman
Eugene Graham	Electrician
Sheldon Monk	Electrician
Donald Swallow	Electrician
William E. Ford	Motors, Small Appliances
Gerald Worthly	Inventory Clerk

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS

Henry Haggerty	Foreman
Freeman Farrar	Maint. Man
Archie Levensailor	Maint. Man
John P. Wright	Maint. Man
Lawrence Haggerty	Backhoe Oper.
Harold Smith	Compressor Oper.

OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Lucy Palmer	Office Mgr., Book-keeper
Pauline Gartley	Cashier - Clerk
Nancy Varney	Billing Clerk
Jean Pryor	Billing Clerk
Frances McPherson	Cashier - Clerk
Mrs. Gwen Callnan	Payroll Clerk

The 1957 Board of Directors:

President	L. O. Ludwig, Jr.
Vice President	Alan H. Clark
Secretary	Robert H. Williams
Treasurer	Asa H. Roach
Director	James C. Madigan
Director	J. Frederick Donald

PUMPING AND SUBSTATION DEPARTMENTS

Royal E. Crockett	Chief Operator
Roger Carroll	Operator
Lawrence Blake	Operator
Leonard Johnson	Operator

METER DEPARTMENT

Donald Nealey	Electric Meters
Harold Hughes	Installation & Testing
Gordon Tidd	Water Meters

GARAGE

Winn Hemore	Night Man
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Sesquicentennial Greetings to our employers, the people of Houlton, from the employees of your

HOULTON WATER COMPANY

Electric Department

Water Department

Sewerage Department