

Your Utility

YOUR UTILITY

Our History

1880s

Electric power made its debut in the U.S.

1890s

Electric power debuts in Lamar. This accomplishment is historically credited to Morton Strain and A. E. Bent.

1920

Electric power in Lamar became "publicly owned" when the "Lamar Light and Power Department" was created, as the result of the purchase of generating facilities owned by Intermountain Light and Power Company, which followed A. E. Bent's Heat and Light.

1929

Lamar's electrical generating facilities were expanded and updated with the purchase of a 2 megawatt Brown-Boveri turbine and generator.

1938

An Elliott 2 megawatt turbine and generator was added to Lamar's electric generating facilities.

1950

A \$750,000 expansion of the plant was undertaken, and a second Elliott turbine and generator, this time 5 megawatts, was installed.

1962

The "City of Lamar Utilities Board" was created under our Home Rule City Charter to plan, manage, operate, and maintain, and expand the Light and Power Department.

1972

A 25 megawatt, natural gas fired steam generating plant was built and put into service. The Utilities Board also contracted for natural gas with suppliers in Barrel Springs, a small gas field southeast of Lamar, and built approximately 25 miles of pipeline from Barrel Springs to the plant.

1979

The Arkansas River Power Authority was formed. "ARPA", a joint action agency is a coalition of seven municipalities: Lamar, Las Animas, LaJunta, Holly, Springfield, Trinidad, and Raton, New Mexico. This group has multiplied the effectiveness of its individual members many times over in ability to negotiate for economical purchased power and to secure new electrical generating facilities.

2004

The Lamar Wind Energy Project was commissioned in February, 2004. This small "wind farm" consists of four 1.5 megawatt turbines; three owned by the Lamar Utilities Board, and the fourth owned by Arkansas River Power Authority.

2006

The Lamar Repowering Project broke ground in late July 2006. This marked the beginning of construction for a new base load power plant which consists of building a 44 mega-watt Circulating Fluidized Bed Boiler, construction of an 18 mega-watt GE steam turbine, and the repowering of the existing 25 mega-watt steam turbine. This unit is expected to be operational by second quarter 2008.

2007

Construction of the Repowering Project continued with the erection of the boiler, installation of the Unit 8 steam turbine generator, and the construction of the substructures and material handling facilities. the "Lamar Wind Farm" continued to operate reliably, generating over 12,800 MWh (megawatt hours) of energy during the year.

TODAY

LUB serves approximately 5,700 consumer/owners over a 167 square mile area, including Lamar, Wiley, McClave, Bristol, and Hartman in Bent and Prowers Counties, Colorado.

Service Area Map

[click here for larger view](#)