

Section 6f: Utilities

Introduction

Providing reliable, efficient and reasonably priced utility services are important amenities provided to residents of a community. Public utilities typically refer to facilities (either public or private) that serve the public by means of a system of collection, transmission, distribution, or processing facilities that connect the utility service provider to residences or businesses. Most often, these systems deliver natural gas, electricity, telecommunications services (cable television/Internet), and water or wastewater. Few Missouri communities provide all utilities; instead they rely on larger, private utility companies, such as Missouri American Water, Aquila or Missouri Gas Energy. The City of Lathrop does provide some services (water, wastewater and trash collection), but relies on private providers for other important utilities.

Utility Providers

Electricity is provided to the City of Lathrop by both Ameren UE and Platte-Clay Electric Co-Op, Inc. Ameren UE Co. was founded in 1902 as Union Electricity Company. It is Missouri's largest electrical utility supplier. They operate two substations located within Lathrop city limits. The nearest power plant is located roughly 150 miles away in Callaway County. The present system is a 12,470 volt system. Platte Clay Electric CO-OP, Inc. established in 1938, also provides limited electrical service for the City of Lathrop. Platte-Clay currently operates approximately two miles of electrical lines and no substations inside the City. Platte-Clay Electric primarily serves outlying areas.



Natural gas is provided by Missouri Gas Energy (MGE). MGE is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. It currently serves over half-million customers in 155 communities in western Missouri, from St. Joseph in the north to Joplin and surrounding areas in southern Missouri, and from the Kansas state line east to Ozark, near Springfield. MGE is a division of Southern Union Company, which is headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Both electric and gas providers are regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Lathrop Telephone Company (LTC) provides telephone service to the citizens of Lathrop. LTC offers customers their choice of long distance companies. Lathrop Telephone Company also offers high speed Internet to local customers through digital lines. The digital network is designed to handle both voice communications and data transfer, such as fax machine transmissions and computer modem

operations. Cable service is provided by Charter Communications. Charter also offers high speed Internet access to customers within the area of operation.

Residents and businesses inside Lathrop city limits are served by city-owned water and sewer utilities. Trash collection is provided by the City of Lathrop. Collection fees are included on the monthly water bill.

Please see Section 2e for additional details on utility services.