

SECTION 2 - CHAPTER 5: THE MERAMEC REGION INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Nineteen of the region's 29 communities have complete public facilities. Tables 5-1 and 5-2 provide data on the public facilities provided by major communities within the Meramec Region. These major communities all have public water and sewer systems that are approved by the State Health Department. Solid waste collection service is also offered in each of these communities as well as full-time law enforcement.

All of the public water systems use deep wells for their source of water. The most popular types of sewer treatment are treatment plants, lagoons and oxidation ditches. The Meramec staff has worked with many small communities over the past 10 years using the Community Development Block Grant Program to provide municipal water and sanitary sewer systems. Although not all of our communities have a complete water system or sewer system, progress is being made with one or two communities funded annually for some type of water or sewer system or upgrade. The CDBG program has been a great benefit in assisting small rural communities to provide these needed services to their residents.

Table 5-3 provides the utility rates and availability for each community in the region.

SOURCE OF WATER

Public or private water systems serve 34,432 of the housing units in the Meramec Region. Individual wells serve 32,142 units, with Phelps and Washington counties having the majority of these units.

PLUMBING FACILITIES

In the Meramec Region, 97.1 percent of the housing units have complete plumbing facilities. This is less than the state, which has 98.7 percent. Since the Meramec Region is mainly rural, it is not surprising that the percentage for complete plumbing would be a little less than a state with two large metropolitan areas. 2.8 percent of the housing units lack complete plumbing, which is a decrease over the 1990 census when 3.7 percent of the housing units lacked some or all plumbing facilities.

Table 5-4 breaks down the plumbing facilities by person per room and by year the structure was built. Since 2000, sewer improvements have been completed in the cities of Sullivan, Steelville, Bourbon, Belle, St. James, Newburg, Doolittle and Irondale.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Public sanitary sewer systems serve 27,172 of the units in the region. Another 35,993 units are served by septic tanks or cesspools. The remainder of the units are served by other types of systems.

In 2000, Phelps County had the largest number of units with a public sewer system—7,924—followed by Pulaski County with 7,885. Gasconade County had 2,932 units sewerred, and Crawford County had 2,867 units sewerred.

ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Ameren

Ameren Corporation is a public utility holding company that does not own or operate any significant assets other than the stock of its subsidiaries. Ameren's primary operating subsidiaries are AmerenCIPS, AmerenUE and AmerenEnergy Generating Company, which are engaged principally in the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electric energy, and the purchase, distribution, transportation and sale of natural gas. AmerenUE, a first-tier subsidiary, is an electric utility in Missouri, and supplies electric and gas service in territories in Missouri and Illinois. AmerenUE supplies electric service to about 1.2 million customers across central and eastern Missouri. AmerenUE serves 65 Missouri counties and 500 towns. About 125,000 of AmerenUE's 1.2 million customers are natural gas customers. The company owns 3,010 miles of natural gas transmission and distribution mains.

INTERCOUNTY ELECTRIC

Intercounty Electric Cooperative was established in December 1936. Intercounty now covers over 2,900 square miles with over 5,400 miles of energized lines, providing energy to over 27,000 meters. Intercounty Electric serves portions of nine counties: Texas, Dent, Phelps, Wright, Pulaski, Maries, Gasconade, Crawford and Shannon counties. It is part of a larger energy cooperative network of six regional and 51 local electric cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma service over 680,000 homes and businesses, representing 1.8 million individual customers.

Intercounty Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy cooperative. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 550 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 39 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 16 million customers every day. Intercounty Electric Cooperative, in cooperation with Fidelity Networks, makes local Internet access to Intercounty members and neighbors.

THREE RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Three Rivers serve the following counties in Central Missouri: Osage, Gasconade, Cole, Maries, Miller, Franklin & Moniteau. Three Rivers Electric Cooperative, located in Linn, Missouri serves 20,000 members. Three Rivers has over 3,700 total miles of service lines.

TRECOM, a totally owned subsidiary of Three Rivers Electric Cooperative, was organized by the Board of Directors to provide telecommunications services for consumers. High speed Internet access is offered to co-op members and non-members alike. Currently, service is available in the Jefferson City and Linn areas.

CRAWFORD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Crawford Electric is a member-owned, non-profit rural electric cooperative with a five-county service area in east-central Missouri. Crawford Electric serves the east-central Missouri counties of Crawford, Gasconade, Franklin, Washington and Dent. They maintain more than 3,100 miles of lines and serve more than 17,000 meters. Generally, Crawford Electric's service territory extends from northeast of Beaufort, west along Highway 50, south along the Crawford County line, including a corner of Dent County, east to Dillard, northeast through Washington County to where Washington, Jefferson and Franklin counties meet, then northwest between Stanton and St. Clair. As a rural electric cooperative, Crawford Electric is a partner in America's largest utility network. Crawford Electric is a member of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives. These are both service organizations designed to assist electric cooperatives in legal and legislative matters.