

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will be hosting an open house and tours of their Lockport Powerhouse on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The open house and tours are free and pre-registration is not required. You must wear sturdy shoes and clothes appropriate for a construction site. Park at 303 W. 2nd Street in Lockport, IL and a shuttlebus will take you to the powerhouse site.

Constructed in 1907 when MWRD extended the Sanitary and Ship Canal further south, the powerhouse takes advantage of the 30-foot fall in the Des Plaines River and electricity generated by the site was transmitted along the south bank of the canal to a distribution station at 31st Street and Western Avenue in Chicago. The electricity was used to power pumps and provide electric lighting. After World War II, the MWRD and Commonwealth Edison entered into an agreement where the electricity generated was transferred to Commonwealth Edison's power grid and MWRD receives a credit on their electric bill.



The powerhouse is on the left. The Army Corps of Engineers lock, which is not part of the tour, is on the right. MWRD Photo 2004. The view is looking northeast.

This is an MWRD event and questions should be directed to them at 312-751-5600.