PSC Records Review: Citizens Gas and Fuel Company of Dunkirk

According to Public Service Records the Citizens Gas and Fuel Company of Dunkirk was furnishing gas dating back to 1867. The plant consisting of three benches with six retorts each. The maximum capacity of the plant was 150,000 cubic feet of gas production a day (50,000 per bench). In 1908, the company faced economic difficulty and abandoned the gas plant along with the coal benches, purifier, scrubber, condenser and 100,000 ft holder. Instead, the company began to solely purchase and distribute gas from a competitor in the region, the South Shore Natural Gas and Fuel Company. The amount of gas purchased is also listed in the second table below. By 1911, the company was bankrupt and the president Hunter Wykes, the secretary Harold James and the treasure, C.J. Street resigned and no successors were thereafter assigned to manage the company. Therefore the responsibility of the company fell into the hand of the majority stockholder (over 2/3), William E. Carroll. Carroll continued to distribute gas from South Shore through 1914. In 1915, Carroll sold his shares to J. A. Richie representative of Henry L. Doherty and Co. The records end at 1915 with a note of the transfer of the company to Richie as well as a note to the foreclosure of the mortgage on the plant.

Table 1:

	Gas Sold	Retorts	Coal	Iron	Coke	Coke	Tar	Tar Sold
	(ft^3)		Carbonized	Oxide	Made	Sold	Made	(gal)
	()		(tons)	(Bu)	(tons)	(tons)	(gal)	
1906	11,288,700	18*	1,500		600	620	19,500	19,500
1907	11,483,000	18	1,300	**	580	580	18,684	18,000

Table 2:

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	Gas Sold (ft ³)	Bought From
1908	\$716,804	South Shore
1909	26,877,900	South Shore
1910	\$7,827.58	South Shore
1911	38,972,000 (feet)	South Shore
1912	42,477	South Shore
1913	36,411	South Shore
1914	39,248	South Shore
1915	32,080	South Shore

Dunkirk Power and Heating Company (NO Gas Relations)

1906 – No Gas Produced or Sold

1907 – Electric and Heating but No Gas Produced

1908-1910 – No Gas was Produced or Sold (No Gas Department)

The Dunkirk Power and Heating Company was an electric company that also produced steam for heating purposes from 1906 until 1917. Adelbert W. Cummings stated on 19th December 1916 that the company was to conclude business that year and would not reopen 1st January 1917. The company was allowed to produce steam for heating purposes through the winter of 1916-1917 and finally stopped its operation on 31st May 1917. They never had a gas department meaning they never produced their own gas.







