

The Electric Distribution Industry:

1880: Thomas Edison operated the Pearl Street steam-electric plant and the pioneer distribution (DC) system. 1882: A water-wheel driven generator was installed in Appleton, Massachusetts.

Wisconsin plant operated at 2400V, DC (59km travelled).

DC had shortcomings because it was hard to deliver over long distances. 1885: AC was championed by Nikola Tesla and George Westinghouse. 4000 V AC transmission line between Oregon and Portland.

- Improvements and advancements led to increased transmission and generation capacity at lower, decreasing unit costs! But, simultaneously, the concentration and capacities of individual plants also increased investment for large projects.
- We still need to improve these technologies for our growing demand of electricity, minimizing land use, water use, and environmental impact.