

Diary entries made before the commissioning of the Juntola power plant

The Juntola hydroelectric power plant, located on the River Paimionjoki, was commissioned at full capacity one hundred years ago, on 8 November 1921. The 1920 annual report of its developer, Lounais-Suomen Sähkösakeyhtiö, reveals that just over a year earlier, on 8 September 1920, the plant had already been partially commissioned, described as being "temporarily equipped on the electrical side". Even at that stage, Juntola was of great importance to electricity production, as "even during periods of the lowest water levels, Juntola increases our electricity generating capacity by well over one hundred per cent."

Twelve days later, on 20 September 1920, construction foreman T. E. Haapala began working for the electricity company as assistant manager. He had previously been employed by Alfred Palmberg, where his responsibilities had included supervising the construction of both the Juva power plant, completed in 1916, and the Juntola power plant. As a result, when he joined the company, he knew the Juntola power plant like the back of his hand.

Haapala began keeping a diary when he started working for the company. These diaries are preserved at the Turku branch of the National Archives of Finland. Below are entries from his 1921 diary relating to the Juntola power plant:

13 April 1921 Equipment for the Juntola power station arrived and was unloaded from the railway wagon. Machine oil arrived from Suomen Öljytehdas, and 150 warning signs were delivered by Oy Sähkö Ab.

22 April Equipment from Helsinki arrived at Juntola.

25 April Installer Sunila arrived from Helsinki to install the switchboard at Juntola.

28 April Haapala visited Juntola, where equipment was unpacked from crates and transported downstairs.

7 May Two gear wheels for the winch operating the lifting gates at Juntola arrived from Oy Lokomo in Tampere.

8 May New runner blades were fitted to the turbine at Juntola. During the work, it was discovered that more blades had been damaged than expected, so additional ones had to be ordered.

15 August Cables for Juntola arrived at the station.

1 November Installer Sunila completed his work at Juntola.

4 November The Juntola and Juva power plants were synchronised. In the evening, the Turku transmission line was tested.

8 November Electricity from Juntola began to be supplied to Turku at 11 p.m., and the transmission line immediately operated reliably.

7.11.2021

10 November All office staff and machine operators, together with their families, gathered at Juntola. Coffee was served to celebrate the inauguration of the power plant.



A photograph of the Juntola hydroelectric power plant during construction was published in issue 3/1921 of Teknillinen Aikakauslehti (Technical Journal). Source: digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi, Teknillinen Aikakauslehti 3/1921, p. 293.