



For Immediate Release
 May 1, 2007
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Fallujah Rebuilding City's Electric Distribution Network

by Norris Jones
 Gulf Region Central

FALLUJAH, Iraq – Fallujah is rebuilding its electrical distribution network. So far over 45,000 utility poles, 2,200 transformers and 2,400 kilometers of cable have been purchased.

Fallujah city officials and Ministry of Electricity personnel are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the \$57 project.

“One of the city’s two existing 33kV substations is being rebuilt and two brand new 33kV substations added to ensure Fallujah has a reliable, stable system,” explains Chip Nieman, the Deputy Resident Engineer for USACE’s Fallujah office. The work also includes rehabilitating a 132kV substation replacing two of the three transformers.

Neighborhood distribution networks – many with broken poles, snapped lines, damaged transformers — are being replaced one area at a time with Ministry of Electricity personnel getting that accomplished. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also hiring additional crews to help.

“The city’s old dilapidated system just didn’t have the capacity to meet the community’s needs,” Nieman explained. “It’s great to see real progress taking shape.”

In addition to the network improvements, Fallujah’s Electrical Department is getting a new \$2.8 million maintenance facility that will include two warehouses, a workshop, and an administrative office.



These two new 33kV substations in Fallujah are only part of a large effort to upgrade the city’s electrical distribution network. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)



An Iraqi worker tests one of two new 33kV substations recently built in Fallujah to upgrade the city’s electrical distribution network. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

"We're interacting with Fallujah officials on a daily basis. Their head of the electricity department, Engineer Isam Kareem Hamadi, has been great to work with. He appreciates our efforts," said Nieman.

In all, Neiman's office is overseeing 87 projects in Fallujah and the surrounding area including health care clinics, sewage lines and pump stations, street lighting, and potable water treatment facilities.

"Fallujah is a great place to work. It's a fast-paced, challenging environment and also rewarding – you get to see how your efforts are helping people," said Nieman who is nearing the conclusion of a one-year assignment in Iraq. "I believe in what we're doing or I wouldn't be here."

Nieman points out that hiring local residents is a priority. Fallujah, a city of 200,000 residents, has about 40,000 homes and businesses. "It's a tremendous benefit to Fallujah's economy," he said.



Iraqi workers have successfully upgraded the city of Fallujah's electrical distribution network which will provide more power, more consistently, more often. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)



Iraqi symbol for electrical caution. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

Note: For additional information, contact Norris Jones, Public Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central District at (540) 665-2644 or Norris.Jones@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, email cegrd.pao@tac01.usace.army.mil or visit our Web site at www.grd.usace.army.mil.