



For Immediate Release  
May 30, 2007  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## ***USACE Works for Reliable Power in Aqra***

By Julie Cupernall  
Gulf Region Division

AQRA, Iraq - The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region Division's Gulf Region North (GRN) district is working to bring more reliable power to 30 thousand Iraqis living in the northern Iraq town of Aqra. Aqra is a rural city about 85 kilometers from the city of Dahuk.

In December 2006, GRN began an \$18.2 million overhead line project to connect the Dahuk electricity substation to the Aqra substation. The 132 kilovolt double circuit line will be strung atop 299 power transmission towers along the mountainous route.

Where the terrain permits the power transmission towers are being erected with the use of crane. In other locations the assembly is by hand. The towers range between 30 and 40 meters tall and typically take about 345 man-hours to construct.

"It's a terrific example of the work we can do in cooperation with the Iraqi government to bring more reliable power into the area," said Col. Frederick Wolf, GRN commander.

The overhead line project is on track to be completed in July.

The Gulf Region North district was tasked with 1,500 projects in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at a cost of nearly \$2.6 billion. GRN has completed over 1,100 of those projects.



299 steel power transmission towers are being built in the 85 kilometers between Aqra and Dahuk. The towers will hold an overhead 132 kilovolt double circuit electric line that will bring reliable power to 30 thousand residents of Aqra. (US Army photo)



Although they sometimes use a crane, often the workers have to hoist each piece of the tower up and assemble by hand due to the rough terrain between Aqra and Dahuk. The project will bring reliable power to 30 thousand residents of Aqra. (US Army photo)