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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Water facility in oversight phase until Dec. 10

By Mohammed Aliwi
 Gulf Region South district



Combined photos provide an overview of the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant providing potable water for Dhi Qar province. (USACE photo illustration)

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq--The \$277 million Nasiriyah Water Treatment facility, already turned over to Iraqi authorities, will be completely in Iraqi hands on Dec. 10, 2007, when the contractor is scheduled to complete the oversight phase of the job.

Until Dec. 10, the contractor, Fluor-AMEC Joint Venture, will remain on-site with the oversight of Iraqi personnel who are currently operating the main plant along with booster pump stations and elevated storage tank facilities.

The largest project of its kind in Iraq, the facility provided employment for more than 1,000 Iraqi workers during construction and will provide clean drinking water for an estimated half a million people in Dhi Qar Province, one of the provinces in southern Iraq served by the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Started in 2004, the project involved the construction of a main water treatment site complete with 10 clarifiers and sand filters, three booster pump stations, five elevated storage tanks of varying size, and over 110 km of pipeline to make it complete, according Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, officer-in-charge of GRS Adder Area Office.

GRS provides a wide variety of projects for Iraq's nine southern provinces, an area covering more than 65,000 square miles. GRS has managed more than 1,500 projects valued at nearly \$3.5 billion, of which 209 valued at over \$800 million remain active.

The project's completion and the settling of final details, including setting a date for the contractor to depart the site, represents "a huge success story," said Col. Steve Hill, the GRS commander. "I want to thank everyone for the great work and persistence," said Hill. "Thanks to those who played key roles in this achievement."

The Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant, which Hill called "an incredible project," is capable of producing 10,000 cubic meters per hour of potable treated water. It provides a water supply for five major communities in Dhi Qar: Nasiriyah, Suq Ash Sheuk, Al Diwaya, Al Shatra and Al Gharraf.

In addition, it will provide permanent employment for over 120 plant personnel and 100 security personnel hired from the local area.

Dhi Qar Province has suffered much from the lack of clean drinking water, which contributed to the spread of disease and a high mortality rate for infants and children under the age of five. The province also had critical potable water challenges due in part to historic contamination from high salinity in the water, lack of water treatment systems, and under funding during the past regime.

Safe, healthy drinking water will assist in preventing spread of disease and provide higher quality of life for residents, said Lang.

On Sept. 11, the USACE and Fluor-Amec signed contract completion documents

certifying that all work had been inspected and was accepted as being in accordance with contract requirements and indicating that construction of the facility was complete and no other work had to be performed.

There was a ceremonial signing in Baghdad between senior Ministry officials and the Corps' Gulf Region Division the next day, and the turnover was finalized on Oct. 21.

Note: Mohammed Aliwi is a Media Relations Officer who works for the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, call John Connor, public affairs officer at 540-665-2656 or email CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.