



For Immediate Release
 November 14, 2007
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

An electrical substation completed 'That should last at least 40 years'

By John Connor
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Completion of an electrical substation in southern Iraq recently brought forth happy citizens and an array of Iraqi officials, including the deputy governor of Najaf Province and the directors general of involved regional and local electrical directorates.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project is a rehabilitation and expansion of the Mutanabi 33/11 kV substation at a cost of \$2.47 million. It had been in the process of being turned over to Iraq authorities since October, said Fitsum Kebede, USACE project engineer for Najaf. The substation is located in the Al Mutanabi/Kufa area of Najaf Province.

As part of the process, the contractor had to complete testing, energizing and commissioning of the substation in the presence of Ministry of Electricity officials, according to Kebede, who said everything was completed and that substation operations were initiated last week.

Kebede, who is attached to the Forat Area Office of the USACE Gulf Region South district, said 30,000 people are receiving power from the substation. Completion of the project was marked locally by a ceremony and public remarks by Iraqi officials.

Allan Giese, a Corps of Engineers electricity sector representative, said the contract was started in September 2005 with



Forat Electricity Director General Engineer Raheem talks with local press about the new substation following a ribbon cutting ceremony. (Courtesy photo)



Iraqi engineers inspect the substation during commissioning. (USACE photo)

Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund money. He said the project took longer to finish than expected, as has been the case with many electrical projects in Iraq, due to issues including job site security and Ministry of Electricity and Director General concerns.

But in the end the contractor turned the substation over to the Ministry of Electricity, Giese said, marking "a successful completion of a facility that should last at least 40 years."

The substation is one of 22 power stations of the 33/11 kV variety to be completed recently in the southern nine provinces of Iraq served by GRS, according to Giese, who put the total cost for these projects at \$55 million.



The Mutanabi 33/11 kV substation is one of 22 completed recently in Iraq's southern nine provinces. (USACE photo)

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