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Duhok-Aqra overhead line project turned over to Ministry of Electricity

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North district

DUHOK, Iraq—The Duhok-Aqra 132kV overhead line was handed over to the Ministry of Electricity here Nov. 7, with one circuit fully energized to supply a mobile substation at Aqra.

In an area of northern Iraq with historically low electrical availability and capability, the new overhead line significantly and immediately benefits people in more than 100 Kurdish villages in and around the Aqra area.

“For many years, the people here have depended on diesel generator sets, receiving commercial power less than two hours per day,” said Gary York, resident engineer at the Duhok and the Erbil Resident Offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division.

“And, the benefits will be further increased when the new substation in Aqra is complete and a second circuit is energized next March,” York added. “It’s been a 17-month project, but the people of Aqra are certainly enjoying a better life today than they were last month.”

York said an estimated 30,000 people now average 10 – 13 hours of electricity per day. Because the \$18 million project brings the power flow from Turkey directly through Duhok substation, it can now support the substation in Aqra.

According to sources at the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, Turkey has a great deal of interest in maintaining this arrangement with Iraq for commercial and economic benefits. Iraq also receives power from Iran and occasionally, Syria.



The completed Duhok-Aqra 132 kV overhead electrical line benefits more than 100 villages in Northern Iraq. The line provides an estimated 30,000 people with an average of 10-13 hours of electricity per day, compared to two hours per day this time last year. The Reconstruction project was turned over to the Ministry of Electricity Nov. 7. (USACE photo)

Note: LuAnne Fantasia is the public affairs officer with the Gulf Region North district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact her at (540) 542-1437 or email requests to 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.