



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

400 kV Substation Completed In Maysan Province, Turned Over To Iraqis

By John Connor
Gulf Region South District

Construction of a 400 kV substation in Maysan Province has been completed and the facility has been turned over to Iraqi authorities.

Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at a cost of nearly \$37 million, the substation is located in the Maysan capital of Al Amarah.

The project consisted of engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, and energization, supply of spare parts, and training of local contractor staff and Ministry of Electricity engineers, both locally and overseas.

"Pictures don't tell you how complex and how successful it really is," said Stephen Pitts, a program manager with USACE's Gulf Region South District. The project was built by a Joint Venture consisting of ABB Sweden and Shams Al Sabah - an Iraqi Company.

"This high-tech facility will enhance the electricity supply in southern Iraq and Baghdad and provide additional capacity and continuity of electricity to 250,000 people," Pitts said.

The project provided capacity development training of local contractors at all skill levels to meet international standards, according to Pitts, who said Ministry of Electricity engineers also have been trained in the latest electrical skills. A large modern workshop and warehouse is



Al Amarah substation Cap Bank, a high voltage capacitor bank used to stabilize electricity supply. (USACE photo).



Al Amarah transformers. 400 kV single-phase transformers. (USACE photo)

part of the scope to continue training and capacity development of surrounding transmission and distribution Facilities and personnel

Maysan Province, where the project is located, has been deemed a high-risk security area, making it impossible for USACE to have any visits to the project site. The project was predominantly managed by a dedicated project management team in Basrah led by Bill Simpson, using video and teleconference capabilities with daily photograph support.

"The geographical challenges for this project were immense," Pitts said. ABB is located in Sweden where the majority of the design and material procurement was performed. GRS project team where located in Basrah the local contractor was Iraq-based, design was reviewed in Great Britain, and progress meetings took place in Jordan. The Project and Contracting Office for Joint Contracting Command Iraq support was in Baghdad. "All in all a tremendous coordination process," Pitts said.



Al Amarah protection panels. Protections panels are provided for every circuit; some shown here. (USACE photo)

On top of this, he said, all materials sourced world-wide were shipped via Kuwait with twelve convoys of 18 trucks each delivering the equipment to site.

Note: John Connor is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, call 540-665-2656 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.