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Largest Modern Electrical Project in Maysan Connected to the National System

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South District



The Gulf Region South district's Amarah 400-kilovolt substation project significantly enhances the strength and the reliability of the power grid in Maysan province. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).

MAYSAN, Iraq—The connection of a 400-kilovolt electrical substation at al-Amarah to Iraq's national electric grid brings significant improvement as electricity reaches homes and businesses.

Barry Stuard, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resident engineer for Maysan, said USACE turned the project over to the Iraqi government in December 2007 and, with the cooperation of the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, connected the project to the national grid March 1.

"The project significantly and immedi-

ately benefitted the people of Maysan and will enhance the electricity supply, and provide additional capacity and continuity of electricity to the southern area of Iraq," Stuard said.

He said this event is an example of what USACE is here to do: bring a better quality of life to people like those in Maysan, so that they can live as others do around the world.

"Our Iraqi engineers in the field did a wonderful job of working with the Iraqi MOE and the contractor to complete this

huge task,” Stuard said, describing the team effort. “No matter what kind of problem was put in front of them, they always seemed to find a way to overcome it.”

Ali Thaer, a resident of Hay Al-Mualimeen neighborhood in Maysan, said to have a reliable source of power was like a dream. “We suffered for a long time from the shortage of electricity, but now everything is getting better. We have power with three hours on and three hours off, and we believe this is just the beginning of the electrical sector improvement in Maysan,” he said. “It’s the largest and the most modern electrical project here and it’s the first time this high technology has been used in the province.”

An Iraqi deputy resident engineer working for the Maysan resident office said the substation is computerized and uses 2005 technology. “More than 785,000 residents in Maysan will enjoy the new technology and have a reliable source of power.”

For Stuard, this was a culmination of multiple projects which will have a huge effect on the total outcome. “USACE has put a lot of effort into the electrical sector in Maysan and now we are beginning to see the result,” he said. “This will be a day that everyone involved in this project can stand back and be proud to say they had a part in. I look at the three hours on and three hours off as having electricity half of the day and this is the first step in getting it 100 percent of the time.”

Stuard said as more and more projects are completed, the citizens will see even more results throughout the province, not only in the electrical sector but in all aspects of life throughout Maysan.



The three 63 megavolt amps transformers function to step down the electrical voltage from 400kV to the local use. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).



Transmission towers at Amarah 400kV substation upgrade the area’s electrical distribution network. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).

Note: A. Al Bahrani is a public affairs specialist with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact Betsy Weiner, public affairs specialist at (540) 542-1528 or e-mail 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.