



For Immediate Release
 May 23, 2008
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Saving water for Baghdad, saving costs for Victory Base

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USACE Resident Engineer Doug Plachy, left, and Construction Representative Tom Anderson, right, inspect the pipe weld with an Iraqi project engineer, center.
 [USACE Photo]

Baghdad, Iraq- "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction of the Victory Waste Water Treatment Plant will have advantages all around. And not only for the Victory Base Complex water supply, but consider that the plant will return a higher quality water for Iraqi irrigation purposes on the western border. It's a great win-win for the Coalition Forces and Baghdad residents," said Capt. Kristina Selstrom, Victory Base Complex (VBC) Garrison Command Project Manager.

By consuming less water on Victory and the subsequent recycling of higher quality water back to the Tigris, there are definite benefits for the Iraqis who depend on this water for day-to-day sustenance. The significance to the overall supply for the Baghdad area's water needs is complemented by a substantial cost savings.

More than \$13.2 million will be saved in the initial operational year of VBC's first-ever waste water treatment plant



Overhead view from the tank catwalks of the pipe welding work on Victory Base Complex's Waste Water Treatment Plant. {USACE PHOTO}

(WWTP). The estimated savings comes from a systems' analysis of a combination of factors, including reduction in required operators and overall maintenance. The largest savings portion of more than \$8 million will be the result of a change from the current method of truck transport for raw sewage to the off-base Baghdad municipal waste water system.

Victory's five-train WWTP will provide water filtration and cleaning for approximately 2 million gallons daily. The term "train" describes a complete beginning-to-end treatment system which usually exists in parallel and complementary sets with other trains. Having several trains enables a treatment facility to handle emergencies and to provide for future expansion. In addition to the processing plant, new chemical storage shelters are being built on site to bring facilities in line with Department of Defense standards.

The \$2.95 million project is 23 percent complete with a projected on-line date of October 2008. Currently, some 35 workers

are welding influent pipelines and completing electrical work for the control systems.



Workers weld pipe for use at the Victory Base waste water treatment plant in Baghdad. [USACE Photo]



An overhead view of the series of treatment basins in the five-train system that will process 400,000 gallons per day per train for a facility total of 2 million gallons. The system's 30 tanks each hold 75,000 gallons. [USACE Photo]

“Outlying communities and villages require water to make their standard of living more tolerable,” said Maj. David Noble, officer in charge of USACE’s Victory Public Works Resident Office. “Our common goals at USACE to support the various needs of the people of Iraq include bringing more water to farmers so they can feed their families and make a decent living.”

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