



<Back | 

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ABOT isolation spools installed ahead of time

Gulf Region Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BASRAH, Iraq – A shutdown to install four isolation spools at the Al Basrah Oil Terminal in the Persian Gulf was completed ahead of time, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division.

The isolation spools allow the oil terminal to continue exporting crude oil while old meters are replaced by new or rebuilt turbine meters. The installation of the spools was scheduled to take 96 hours, but was completed in less than 72 hours.

“The installation completed earlier than scheduled due to a well-coordinated, joint effort between the South Oil Company, Parsons Iraqi Joint Venture and their subcontractor, AFI, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” said Navy Capt. Richard Fritzley, Oil Sector Lead at GRD. “They even installed five 24-inch emergency shutdown valves during this short shutdown period, which were not originally scheduled to be installed. The SOC and AFI crews really performed flawlessly as they shaved one full day from the shutdown schedule while performing extra scope.”

The metering project will install 14 new meters and rebuild 10 meters, which will ensure that the measuring of crude oil complies with international standards. Once the new meters are operating – expected in mid-May – ABOT will be a fully automated, remotely controlled, smart facility, Fritzley said.

ABOT, which exports approximately 1.5 million barrels per day, is currently responsible for the vast majority of Iraq’s oil export one-day time savings is extremely important.

Once the entire project is completed, it will “provide improved platform safety, reliability and efficiency in addition to fiscally sound metering,” Fritzley added.



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The \$55 million rehabilitation and refurbishment program on ABOT will restore full terminal loading and custody metering capacity. Completion of these projects – scheduled for May 2007 - will bring the oil platform up to internationally accepted standards and ensure reliability and safety of operations.

Phase 1, which was successfully completed in March 2006, refurbished and repaired all loading arms and ensured that four berths were fully operational for the first time in many years - greatly improving tanker loading efficiencies. Phase 2 refurbishment, which began in September 2006, will effectively be almost a complete replacement of the electrical, instrument, shutdown system, fire protection and metering systems. This work includes two new generators, new control buildings and substations on both platforms.

All the work has been completed on a "live" platform and apart from the recent shutdown required to isolate the meters for repair, all four berths on ABOT will be kept operational and not impact oil exports.

In total, of the 182 oil projects valued at \$1.3 billion - 57 projects are engineering, procurement and construction projects valued at \$924M and 125 are non-construction valued at \$1.3 billion. Overall in Iraq, crude oil production capacity is at 2.5 million barrels per day – with a goal of 3 million barrels per day.

Note: For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, email cegrd.pao@tac01.usace.army.mil or visit our website at www.grd.usace.army.mil

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