



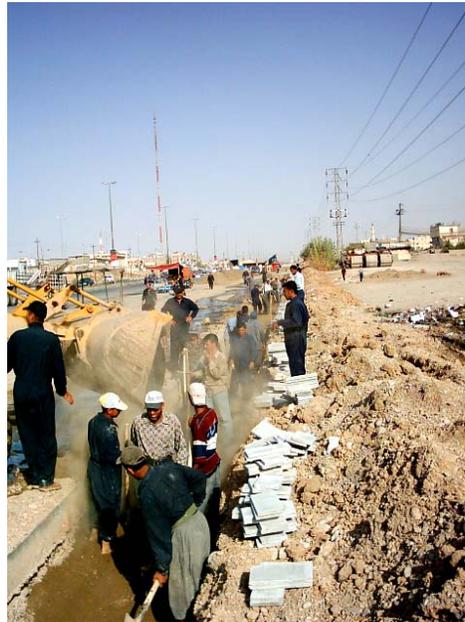
PROJECT AND CONTRACTING OFFICE

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

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Underground power cables are laid in trenches, covered by a layer of sand, then cement tiles, and then dirt for protection. Photos Courtesy of PCO Electricity Sector

Central Ninewa Residents to Benefit From New Power Cables

Baghdad, Iraq – Inhabitants of central Ninewa will soon receive more robust, reliable electricity due to the installation of 12 new underground feeders, or power cables, in the area. The new cables will improve electrical services for approximately 500 to 1,000 local homes or businesses and provide additional connections between the substations that supply electricity to overhead power lines.

Management oversight for the project was provided by the Project & Contracting Office's (PCO) Electricity Sector, with quality control supplied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division.

The project, totaling \$2.24 million, began in June 2005. At present, work on the power cables is approximately 90 percent complete, with an expected completion date of December 2005. Cable testing remains to ensure they not only function correctly, but pass rigid international safety standards.

Once installed, the additional power cables will decrease dependency on generators and provide a more continuous supply of power for local residents. The local economy will be impacted positively as surrounding businesses and industries will have more hours of power and workers will be able to work longer. Additionally, traffic systems, computer networks, and telephone systems will be able to run for longer periods of time.

To install a new cable, workers first dig a trench and line the bottom of the trench with sand before laying the cable. They then place another layer of sand on top of the cables as a "cushion," then cover that with concrete tiles for protection. Lastly, another layer of sand topped by a plastic sheet with the word "warning" written in Arabic covers the cables, and then a final layer of dirt is placed overall.

The Electricity Sector is one of four PCO sectors managing reconstruction projects throughout Iraq. The other sectors are Oil, Public Works and Water, and Facilities and Transportation.

In total, the PCO Electrical Sector is responsible for 434 projects valued at approximately \$3.2 billion. This figure includes about \$140 million of non-construction funds allocated for equipment and training.

To date, the Electricity Sector has completed approximately 82 projects totaling an estimated \$660 million. Currently, an estimated \$1,300 million is being used on projects that are now in progress. This leaves \$1,250 million for remaining projects.

The majority of 352 remaining Electricity Sector projects are scheduled for completion by December 2006.

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The Project and Contracting Office is responsible for contract management and execution of approximately \$12.1 billion of the \$18.4 billion Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund designated by the U.S. Congress to support the reconstruction of Iraq. The office reports to the U.S. Department of the Army and Department of Defense on matters relating to contracting and project management, and to the U.S. Department of State's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office on matters relating to project requirements and priorities. For more information, please contact Maj. Jim Hawkins at 703-544-6427 or visit our website at: www.rebuilding-iraq.net.