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## Clean Environment for Al Sadr Teaching Hospital

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**BASRAH, Iraq** – After years of neglect, Al-Sadr Teaching Hospital will soon witness a significant improvement.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in southern Iraq is refurbishing the existing sewage network system and constructing a new 40 cubic meter / hour sewage treatment plant at the only hospital within a 30 mile radius in Basrah province.

The \$1.9 million project includes installation, testing and commissioning of two manholes, replacement of eight inch PVC conduit in the ground and main grids, said the Basrah Area Engineer Daniel Foltz.

The rehabilitation of the sewage network and a new waste water treatment plant will mean that doctors can operate and see patients in a cleaner environment, said Quality Assurance Inspector John Morgan from the Basrah Area Office, Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“The installation of a complete sanitary sewage treatment plant will positively affect the hospital condition and provides a healthier environment for the hospital,” Morgan said.

Deputy Administrator of Al-Sadr Teaching Hospital, Talib Saleem, who has been working in this hospital for more than ten years, said, “The old waste water treatment



Al-Sadr hospital: Iraqi workers install wooden forms and reinforcing bar for the construction of the two new manholes. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).

plant located in the grounds of this hospital has been nonoperational for about 15 years and a large amount of waste and waste water just sat in the unit,” he said. “The project will help to remove unhealthy odors from the old nonfunctional waste water treatment plant and create a healthier environment for the hospital.”

He added that the three decade old facility sees about 480 patients daily and more than 100 of them are emergencies from Basrah and the other southern Iraqi provinces.

According to Foltz, this project aims to provide waste water treatment for the only six story and 390-bed facility in the province. Hospitals produce waste that is harmful to be dumped directly in to Shatt Al-Arab, so the project treats that water before it is discharged.

The existing sewage system leaks into the basement of the hospital. Part of the job is to replace the broken and damaged lines in

the basement area, according to Ferdinand Guese, USACE project engineer.

“The Corps will install and connect a 250 kilovolt generator to provide a 24 hour operation plant and enhance the capacity of the sewage system for the hospital,” said Guese.

Foltz added, “This plant will provide for full use of bathrooms and provide sanitary working conditions.”

Foltz said the Gulf Region South district is currently overseeing 144 projects throughout the nine southern provinces of Iraq and 27 of these projects are in the Basrah province.



Al-Sadr hospital: (in the center) Ferdinand Guese, USACE project engineer, discusses construction with the Iraqi engineers at Al Sadr Teaching Hospital. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).



Al-Sadr hospital: Workers tie steel before placing the concrete foundation for the new 40 cubic meter waste water plant. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).



Al-Sadr hospital: The old waste water treatment plant sits in disrepair, nonfunctional for more than 15 years. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani).

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