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## Government Board Creates Foundation for Competition in the Electricity Sector



Training session for the Egyptian utility staff.

The Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EEUCPRA) Board approved the licenses for the Transmission Company, all distribution companies, and five Generation Companies. This decision was a result of the close collaboration between USAID, the EEUCPRA and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

USAID's Egyptian Electricity Regulatory Project (EERP), which concluded in April 2003, provided significant technical assistance and training to the Egyptian Electric Utility and Consumer Protection Regulatory Agency (EEUCPRA). The training continues in value as the utility staff passes their expertise on to new staff members – a staff that grew from one, at the beginning of the project in 2001 to forty-seven by the end of the project.

While the Agency's Managing Director, Dr. Mohammed El Sobki developed his technical team and office infrastructure, USAID's technical contractors located in Egypt and Washington, DC served as the Agency's virtual staff and technical advisory team.

USAID supported the creation of a framework for competition in the electricity sector, which would allow Egypt to privatize its own utility, and attract much-needed foreign and Egyptian investment to build new power generation plants. The project helped the EEUCPRA design licensing and contractual documents for the operation of generation, transmission and distribution entities active and planning entry in the Egyptian electricity market. Both English and Arabic versions were produced, and the licenses were presented for Board approval in late 2002. Hands-on assistance was given to generation, transmission and distribution company managers in the development of their licensing packages for submission to the Board in April of 2003. Training was then provided to representatives from each of the three groups of new independent entities.

The EERP project team also developed a draft Electricity Law for consideration by the Parliament Committee established to write a new law that would replace the Presidential Decree, which established the regulatory body.

USAID has provided a strong foundation of technical support aimed at staff capacity building, creating the underlying legislative documentation and building a procedural road map for the agency's successful operation.

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