



For Immediate Release  
November 25, 2008  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## *Amarah residents look forward to 'a breath of fresh air' as new incinerator nears completion*

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The new incinerator at Amarah's landfill should be fully operational in December.  
(USACE photo)

**Amarah, Iraq** — Maysan Province will soon be handling its trash in a much more environmentally-friendly manner. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division is installing a modern waste incinerator, which is expected to be fully operational next month. It has the capacity to handle as much as 70 percent of the garbage being hauled to the landfill daily.

"Currently the landfill workers are openly burning the trash, often blanketing

the area in a dense, black, unhealthy smoke," said Iraqi Engineer Ali Abdul, who is overseeing the work.

The incinerator will be able to handle more than 400 pounds of solid waste or 50 liters of liquid waste per hour, he said, explaining that this is the best way of disposing of Amarah's industrial waste, as well as the bio-medical waste from the hospitals. "City officials are anxious to see the incinerator up and running. It



Historically, Amarah burns trash openly at its landfill, causing nearby neighborhoods to be blanketed by unhealthy, black smoke. Next month a modern incinerator will begin operating to address that problem. (USACE photo)

means families in the area will have much cleaner air to breath. Residents are very happy this project is nearly complete so the bad odors from the landfill will no longer be a problem," continued Abdul, a lifelong Maysan Province resident.

The nearly \$775,000 project includes a new all-weather asphalt access road, administration office building, a diesel generator, and a 2,000 liter diesel fuel storage facility. It's also providing jobs for the local community, with 20 Iraqis on the construction crew.

"Our community is seeing other signs of progress here," Abdul explained. The road between Amarah and Maymona is being expanded to a 4-lane highway. That \$6.2 million project is nearly complete. In addition, the new Maysan Surgical Hospital is starting to take shape. The 100-bed facility will include several operating rooms, a delivery room, an emergency room, a pharmacy, and various labs. It will house clinics for pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, dental and nuclear medicine. "It's great to be part of this effort," he noted.



A new all-weather asphalt road now leads to the landfill. (USACE photo)

**Note:** Norris Jones is the public affairs officer for the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact public affairs by phone at 540 665-1233, by e-mail to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil), or visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).