

USAID ENERGY POLICY PROGRAM

SUCCESS STORY

CREW REPAIRS POWER LINES WITHOUT SHUTDOWN AFTER TRAINING

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PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Crew Repairs Power Lines without Shutdown after Training



Affected Jalala-Jaban 132 kV power line



Sattar Khan along with Live-Line Crew during repair work

“We have now been provided with protective gear including gloves and a helmet by the USAID team, along with tools and equipment that help us do our job better and in a secure manner.”

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

At the Jalala-Jabban transmission line in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, insulators at location no. 9 on the 132 KV line had become contaminated due to smoke emanating from a nearby brick kiln chimney. The carbon buildup would lead the insulators to spark and could cause a power outage and damage to equipment. Previously, repairing the power lines in the field meant that the power had to be completely shut down while the maintenance activity took place. Depending on how difficult the repair, the power could be shut down for some time.

Sattar Khan is an Assistant Engineer for the transmission lines at PESCO and is in charge of PESCO’s crew of 15 linemen whose job it is to maintain the lines. Sattar was trained in power line maintenance at Tarbela Power Station under a USAID-funded program in 2013, and he has worked in the field on different transmission lines. His first project was at Warsak Power House where he and his team repaired broken insulators and his next project was replacing broken wires at Kohat Daud Khel.

Recently, Sattar along with his entire team from PESCO, received additional training in “live-line” maintenance and repair under the Energy Policy Program funded by USAID. Because of the new practices they learned in the program, they were able to clean and reinstall the insulators at location no. 9 of Jalala-Jabban transmission line without interrupting the power supply to the community. Because of the additional training they received, members of Sattar Khan’s crew are adept at sagely repairing the electricity lines without shutting down the power and disrupting power flow to households and businesses.

After washing the contaminated insulators and reinstalling them, the line was once again made safe from any unscheduled power outages. “It was a 4 hour long procedure to clean, wash and re install the insulators,” said Khan. With their yellow safety hats and uniform grey outfits, linemen now work with the latest protective gear and tools, minimizing the risk of hazards to their health and safety.

The thorough USAID training course in live-line maintenance for the PESCO linemen was given at Tarbela in two parts; the main training for 14 weeks and a refresher training course of 4 weeks. The linemen from PESCO have become the first and only distribution company in Pakistan to have a fully equipped and functional live-line crew.

Khan added that it requires immense teamwork to get a job like this done. “Our work requires a lot of concentration and coordination due to the nature of work. I brief the team regarding delegation of work as every lineman has his own role to play such as to bring the equipment, to get on the tower, to stay on the ground etc. There is line and ground potential also where you have to be careful about the distance you maintain from the lines and ground or you could jeopardize your life.”