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Afghanistan

August 18, 1971

COMPLETION REPORT

LACHMAN WELL

Project Agreement 306-11-998-103 (SDAP #5)

By Herbert A. Springer

This is the
of apparently
many wells
digging activities
in the Province of
Afghanistan

The beginnings of this project are buried in the mists of antiquity. We have reviewed correspondence from early as January 27, 1966 but no copy of the official RGA request has been found.

A letter of intent from USAID acting Director Hubbell to H. E. Mohd. Yasin Mayel, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of March 1, 1966 committed USAID to not over Af\$ 750,000 in support of this project.

A "Horribles Report" written June 28, 1967 indicated (1) there was confusion within the Mission as to where project responsibility rested and (2) that a drill rig was at the site on June 25.

The earliest project agreement (ProAg) was dated October 7, 1967 although there were drafts prepared in May of that year.

The October 7, 1967 ProAg for Project 306-Special, Agreement No. SDAP 3(A), was in the amount of Afghani\$ 650,000.

The U. S. agreed to provide a) casing and/or screens, b) diesel powered pump and c) spares for pump, d) up to 200 meters of 4" water line to connect to storage tank and initial distribution points, e) advisory services.

PASA contribution was to drill the well, install the pump, connect pipes to storage tank and to initial distribution points and to bear all additional costs.

Well site location was approved by Messrs Yeaman, Deputy Chief Agriculture, Arthur Westfall, Chief USGS/PASA and Piro, USGS on December 15, 1967.

Well drilling got underway in January 1968 and was completed on April 7, 1968. The well was drilled to a depth of 42 meters and cased to 40.5 meters by the German Hydrological Mission for the Water and Soil Survey Department at MA&I, with a Polish percussion rig. The casing of wood staves was 30 centimeters in diameter.

Funds under the original ProAg were deobligated May 22, 1968 because they had to be obligated within six months of the ProAg date.

A new ProAg was signed July 31, 1968 Project #306-11-998-103; Agreement No. SDAP 5(Local Currency), again in the amount of Af\$ 650,000.

A.I.D. TECHNICAL REFERENCE
ROOM

During July 1968 three purchase orders totalling Afs 650,000 were issued. The first for 5" galvanized pipe imported from Japan was in the amount of Afs 165,761, to Moh'd Gaus Nasri. The second for the pump and engine set was in the amount of Afs 345,000 to Afghan International Trade Agency and the last in the amount of Afs 139,239 was to the Water and Soils Survey Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the casing filter screen and plug.

After the arrival of this equipment in Kabul it was transported to Laghman and installed by USAID personnel working with the suppliers representatives while the casing and ultimately, the pipe were installed by Construction Department Forces of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

A recent chronology of trips to and work done at Laghman by USAID technicians is as follows:

23 December 1968	Trip to site Messrs Duerr, Farm Shop Instructor, Yeaman, and Ruiz, Chief Engineer.
30 December 1968	Located tank site and surveyed pipe line. Messrs. Duerr and Springer, Deputy Engineering Officer.
12 March 1969	Transported engine and pump to Laghman, Mr. Duerr.
18 March 1969	Installed pump and pipe in well using USAID forklift. RGA and pump supplier's engineer (Pakistani) to install concrete work at pump head and engine base. Mr. Duerr and Mr. Piro.
21 March 1969	Delivered parts and special pieces to well site. Mr. Duerr.
26 March 1969	Checked installation which appears OK; pump and engine operating well. Mr. Duerr.
21 April 1969	Visit Laghman, Mr. Duerr.
15 November 1969	Transported 5" pipe to Laghman. Stored at the Governors warehouse for security. Mr. Duerr.

The year's hiatus November 1969 - November 1970 was due to two causes. First, administrative difficulties within the RGA. There was to be a transfer of Afs 500,000 to the construction department of the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation which also involved the Ministries of Planning, Finance and Interior. When these money transfer problems were reconciled there was a labor shortage due to harvesting season coupled with a touchy religious situation, causing the then Governor to desire that the project be delayed until the local situation was relieved. In November 1970 conditions were deemed suitable for resuming work.

17 September 1970 Audit report 6-306-71-5 recommended that project be completed.

5 November 1970 Project transferred from Agriculture to Engineering.

25 November 1970 Site inspection and discussion with governor. Mr. Springer & Mr. Duerr.

24 December 1970 Resited reservoir construction started and hauling of cement began. Engr. Hanif MA&I and Mr. Duerr.

11 January 1971 Reservoir site levelled, rebar at site as well as sand, gravel and rock. Mr. Duerr.

13 January 1971 Last load of cement delivered.

18 January 1971 Foundation poured, ready to pour floor. Mr. Duerr.

25 January 1971 Floor poured, walls being prepared.

2 February 1971 Walls within 2' of completion. Mr. Springer, Mr. Duerr.

17 February 1971 Reservoir walls completed.

22 February 1971 Pictures taken. Mr. Tangco, ComMedia.

8 March 1971 Checked pipe - two lengths and eleven couplings missing. Mr. Duerr.

16 March 1971 Reservoir completed, inlet and outlet pipes and valves installed. Mr. Duerr.

The work on the reservoir was of a very high quality, better than called for in the USAID/ENG design. At about this same time the pipeline was installed, highlighting the fact that 11 couplings were missing. The quality of pipelaying was poor and caused later problems. Several attempts were made to purchase replacement couplings locally and in Pakistan all to no avail. Finally in July 1971 these were fabricated by Mr. A. V. Myers, Engineering Division Equipment Specialist and the machinist from our USAID Motor Pool. Mr. Myers made six trips to Laghman during July at the request of H. E. Dr. Abawi newly appointed Governor of Laghman Province who urgently wanted the well completed to alleviate drought conditions in the area.

When the pump set was first tested, the pump settled, due to a faulty foundation prepared by the suppliers engineer and extra ~~land~~ from the poor pipelaying. Governor Abawi provided additional concrete and labor while USAID took a fork lift to the site. The pump was reset, a new stronger foundation was constructed and pipeline faults remedied after which AID emblems

Lead

were installed.

Upon the next test after correcting the pipe laying on the lower end of the line, it was found that there was a faulty joint near the tank. This necessitated moving a USAID welding machine to the site and welding the joint to provide a secure and watertight connection.

USAID has provided drawings for a pump house to be built later from local resources.

The system was tested and on July 24, Governor Abawi dedicated the project.

During the later testing stages, neighboring villagers were using water from the project and appeared most pleased and appreciative. This indicates that ultimately the desired high impact of the project was achieved.

cc:

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