

4 September 2007

TRIP REPORT FOR DIRECTOR WILLIAMS

Through: Mr. Bruce Sincox, OBO/OM/FIR Division Director
From: Mr. Merton Bunker, OBO/OM/FIR/FPS Branch Chief
Mr. Ivan Rockwell, OBO/OM/FIR/FPS
Mr. Christian Pierson, OBO/OM/FIR/FPS
Mr. William Thorpe, OBO/OM/FIR/FPS
Copy: Mr. Paul Rowe, OBO/OM
Mr. James Golden, OBO/IPCO

Purpose of Trip and Date(s)/Places: To conduct acceptance tests of fire protection systems at the New Embassy Compound (NEC) in Baghdad, Iraq. I was accompanied by Mr. Ivan Rockwell, Mr. William Thorpe, Mr. Christian Pierson, and Mr. Philip Walgreen (all from OBO/OM/FIR). Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Walgreen arrived at Post on Thursday 17 August, 2007. Mr. Pierson arrived at Post on Monday 20 August, 2007. Mr. Thorpe and I arrived at Post on Thursday 23 August, 2007. Departure from post was Sunday 2 September, 2007. All staff returned to OBO on Tuesday 4 September, 2007.

Observations/Key Findings:

The fire service underground piping and the repair methods used by the Contractor do not meet the project specifications or NFPA 24, Standard for Underground Fire Service Mains. The fire service mains are installed using non-approved materials and this was noted in a trip report dated 16 October, 2006. The Contractor has not corrected this situation despite having more than 20 breaks on the system since being placed in service in July 2007.

Four leaks in the fire service mains were discovered and repaired while OBO/FIR Staff were on site. The Contractor is repairing leaks by replacing the coupling(s) and encasing the new joints in concrete. This method is also not in compliance with project specifications and NFPA 24 (referenced in the project specifications). Additionally, some of the leaks repaired prior to our arrival failed a second time during our visit. These failures are occurring during normal use of the system and will continue to occur. There are at least 600 joints on the system, and the entire installation is not acceptable.

Because the fire service mains are deficient, there is no reliable automatic fire sprinkler system coverage in any building on the compound. Without sprinklers, none of the primary buildings will meet travel distances and fire separation requirements, required by the International Building Code (referenced in the project specifications).