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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Government Improves Access to Electricity in Suzak Rayon

The United States Agency for International Development's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) provided the Suzak Rayon government with a \$237,000 grant to install transformers, power lines, and electrical wiring in the five villages of Suzak Rayon in Jalalabad Oblast.

USAID, Suzak Rayon government officials, and community leaders held a press conference on December 20 to celebrate the completion of the installation of the new power lines and electrical transformers in the villages of Gazprom, Socialism, Tosh, Munduz, and Jangy-Chek. The infrastructure project will provide more than 23,000 residents with access to improved electrical power and supply.

Following the violence in June 2010, thousands of former residents of Jalalabad city have permanently relocated to communities throughout the Suzak Rayon. Additionally, a large number of ethnic Kyrgyz have recently emigrated from Uzbekistan in fear of possible retribution. This migration has increased demand for electricity and overwhelmed the carrying capacity of the Soviet-era power grid. Electricity shortages and frequent blackouts have exacerbated tensions among the multi-ethnic communities that compete for limited electricity. This project will also help reduce tensions and competition over limited electricity.

This activity is one of many assistance projects supported by the American people through USAID. For more information about USAID programs in Kyrgyzstan please visit: <http://kyrgyzstan.usaid.gov/kyrgyzstan>.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American people. Since 1992, USAID has supported local efforts to improve economic growth, governance, and the quality of health and education in Kyrgyzstan.

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