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ISRAEL

GOLAN 'WATER WAR' DEVELOPMENTS DISCUSSED

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[Text]

**KATZRIN.** - Mekorot, the national water company, announced yesterday that beginning today normal water supply would be disrupted to all Golan Heights settlements in protest against establishment of a local, independent water company by the settlements.

The settlers had set up independent reservoirs to exploit rainwater over the years without interference from Mekorot. However, the financially strapped Mekorot has recently been pressuring the settlers to cease building new reservoirs and installing the necessary pipeline infrastructure.

But the settlers are reluctant to stop extending their network, since it provides them with water for irrigation more cheaply than Mekorot.

Meir Golan of Golan Water, the settlers water collective, met with Mekorot on Friday and agreed to maintain the status quo and to stop building reservoirs until further discussion. However, when Mekorot officials found out that construction continued at a reservoir site on Friday that had been nearly completed before the construction-ban, it declared the disruption of service.

Mekorot's 4,000 workers are also considering a strike over the dispute, it was reported last night.

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