

(Unofficial English translation kindly provided to the IWLP by Dr. Sami Shubber)

Agreement between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Management and Utilization of the Ground Waters in the Al-Sag/Al-Disi Layer

The High Royal Decree has been issued to approve the decision of the Council of Minister no. 9619, dated 13.5.2015, which contains the approval of the Agreement between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the management and utilization of the groundwaters in the Al-Sag/Al-Disi Layer, which was signed in Riyadh on 30.4.2015, which reads as follows:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Ministry of Water and Electricity, and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan represented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (hereinafter referred to as the Parties), bearing in mind the brotherly relations between the brotherly peoples and countries, and the two countries and the special relationship existing between them, and affirming the sincere cooperation which exists between them, and whereas there is a layer of joint water aquifer between them known in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the layer of (Al-Sag), and in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as the layer of (Al-Disi), and in the light of the mutual desire of the two countries to apply the highest standards of prudence in the management and utilization of the groundwaters, which have limited renewability in this layer for the benefit of the two Parties.

The Parties have agreed as follows:

Article One:

For the purposes of this Agreement the words and expressions used therein shall have the following meanings:

Saudi: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – The Ministry of Water and Electricity.

Jordan: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – The Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The Al-Sag Layer: It is the part of the geologic formation that carries the water from the main Al-Sag layer, which extends from the Jordanian borders until the end of the fields of the water wells project of central Tabuk in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



The Al-Disi Layer: It is the part of the geological formation that carries the water from the main Al-Disi layer, which extends from the Saudi borders until the end of the field of water wells of the Al-Disi Project in the Dabeidab area in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Project for the Transport of Al-Disi Waters: It is the project for the conveyance of waters from the Al-Disi Layer in the Dabeidab area to the city of Amman and other governorates.

The Tabouk Central Water Project: It is the project for the conveyance of waters from the Al-Sag Layer to Tabuk city and other cities and villages.

The Technical Joint Committee: It is the Committee referred to in the Third Article of this Agreement.

Pollution: Any pollution to the surface or groundwaters, whether chemical, bacterial, or any other, caused directly or indirectly.

The International Boundary Line: It is the international borderline between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with the Agreement signed between the two States in Amman on Monday 12.4.1385 of the Hijri Calendar, the equivalent of 9.8.1965 of the Gregorian Calendar.

The Management Area: It is the area between the marking points (B1, B2, J2, J1) in Jordan, and the area between the marking points (B1, B2, S4, S3) in Saudi Arabia, which is part of the Al-Disi Layer in Jordan and Al-Sag Layer in Saudi Arabia. This area is indicated in the attached plan (the Map for the Agreement Concerning the Management and Utilization of the Ground waters in the Al-Sag/Al-Disi).

The Protected Area (the Prohibited Area): It is part of the Management Area confined between the marking points (B1, B2, J4, J3), situated in Jordan, and the area confined between the marking points (B1, B2, S2, S1) in Saudi Arabia, which is indicated in the attached plan (the Map for the Agreement Concerning the Management and Utilization of the Groundwaters in the Al-Sag/Al-Disi).

Article Two:

The Contracting Parties have agreed on the necessity for the proper management, utilization and sustainability of the waters of the Al-Sag/Al-Disi Layer, through the following means:

1. The elimination of all activities in the Protected Area (the Prohibited Area), which depends on the extraction of groundwaters therefrom, within a period of five years from the date of signature of this Agreement.



2. The maintenance of the Protected Area (the Prohibited Area) between the two brotherly States, free from all activities which depend on the extraction of groundwaters from the Protected Area.
3. The digging of observatory wells in the Protected Area, for the purpose of obtaining information relating to the quality and level of the groundwaters, provided that prior coordination through the Technical Joint Committee is carried out before the digging of any well.
4. The digging of wells in the Management Area has to be done in accordance with the technical standards approved by the two States. In order to avoid any pollution, the horizontal or tilted digging of wells is prohibited.
5. The protection of groundwater in the Management Area between the two States from any pollution. It is not permissible to inject any pollutant, whatever its quality or quantity, into the groundwaters in the Management Area.
6. The use of groundwaters extracted from the Management Area shall be exclusively limited for municipal purposes in the two States.

Article Three:

1. A Joint Saudi/Jordanian Technical Committee shall be established, and shall be composed of five members from each Party to the this Agreement, and headed from the Saudi side by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water and Electricity, and from the Jordanian a side by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.
2. The Joint Committee shall be entitled to use experts and advisers, and employ assistants, technicians and officials from citizens from the two States or otherwise, according to its needs, for carrying out specified activities.
3. The Technical Committee shall hold its regular meetings every six months, or as the need arises.
4. The Joint Technical Committee shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. The supervision of the implementation of the terms of this Agreement.
 - b. The supervision and observation of the groundwaters, from the point of view of the quantity of water extracted, its quality and level.

- c. The collection and exchange of information, statements and studies and their analysis, and the submission of the results to the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. These statements and information shall be the property of the two Parties. The Technical Joint Committee does not have the right to provide such information and statements to a third party except with the written approval of the two Parties.

Article Four:

1. This Agreement shall be approved in accordance with the applicable rules and legislation of the Contracting Parties. It shall come into force from the date of signature in accordance with the official measures in the two States.
2. The plan attached to this Agreement shall constitute an integral part thereof, and the terms of this Agreement shall apply to the part specified therein.
3. This Agreement shall be reviewed every twenty-five years.
4. If the need arise for the amendment of any of the provisions of this Agreement, in the interest of the brotherly States, the Technical Joint Committee shall study the amendment and refer it to the competent authorities, for the purpose of taking the necessary official measures in the two States to approve the amendment.
5. This Agreement has been concluded in the City of Riyadh on 11.7.1436 of the Hijri Calendar, the equivalent of 30.4.2015 of the Gregorian Calendar, in two original copies in the Arabic language, which are equally authentic. Each Contracting Party has received a copy of the Agreement.

For
The Government of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia
The Minister of Water and Electricity
Abdullah Bin Abdul Al-Rahman Al-
Hossein

For
The Government of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan
The Minister of Water and Irrigation
Dr. Hazim Kamal Al-Naser





Handwritten signature or initials.