

TECHNICAL EVALUATION AND OPTIMIZATION  
OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
IN JERICHO

By

Amin Ismael Nawahda

Student Number: 975139

Supervisor: Dr. Rashed Al-Sa'ed

Co-supervisors: Dr. Amjad Aliewi

Dr. Yaser Bashir

A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty at Birzeit University in partial  
fulfillment of the requirements for the Master Degree in Water  
Engineering

Birzeit, June 1999

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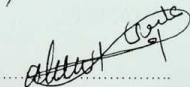
Amin Ismael Nawahda

This thesis was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Rashed Al-Sa'ed and has been approved by all members of the Examination Committee.

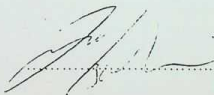
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The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this study do not necessarily express the views of Birzeit University, the views of the individual members of the MSc-committee or the views of their respective employers.

DEDICATION

TO MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER DR. ISMAEL NAWAHDA



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Fail

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Most of all, I am deeply thankful and grateful to my family for their support and continuous encouragement during the period of my study.

## ABSTRACT

Since 1956 when **Jericho Water Treatment Plant (JWTP)** was established, this plant produces around 500 cubic meters of fresh drinking water per day for more than 5000 inhabitants living in Aqbat-Jabr camp. Water springs at Wadi-Qilt are considered the main raw water supply for the JWTP.

JWTP operates properly in summer time under poor management and lack of maintenance. The present treatment process entails slow sand filtration and disinfection process. In rainy days the influent fecal coliforms are about 800-colonies/100 ml, which are significantly above those recommended by the WHO and the Palestinian Standards for drinking water. The turbidity is more than 30 NTU; extensive growth of algae in the feeding open canal and in the slow sand filters is visible.

The water of Wadi-Qilt springs is polluted while flowing in the open canal more than 13 km long to JWTP. From 1996 to 1997, a few incidents of waterborne diseases were reported as a result of inadequate filtration and interruption of the process of the disinfection. JWTP is the only source of drinking water for Aqbat-Jabr, but the failure of the treatment process at JWTP in winter time forces the people of Aqbat-Jabr to use another water supply from the Israeli Water Company (*MEKKORTH*). The supplied quantity of water by MEKKORTH is insufficient and also it is more expensive than the water supplied by JWTP. Therefore the major objective of this study is to identify the means and measures for establishing a water system under the conditions of water scarcity so that the JWTP can confront the pollution, especially during rainy days, which causes fecal coliforms, higher turbidity, and algae growth.

The results of the analysis conducted on the experimental model of Slow Sand Filter (SSF) indicate that the existing water treatment plant must be modified with the addition of a settling tank in front of the sand filters in order to treat varying water qualities effectively especially in winter time. After executing the modifications on the experimental model of SSF, the efficiency of removing turbidity reached in worst conditions to 85% and no algae growth has been observed.



My recommendation for the future is to utilize water resources at Wadi-Qilt effectively because the whole region suffers from water shortage. This will require actually additional civil works and water management policy of water resources and optimized operational management of JWTP in order to cope with water demand beyond the coming 10 years.



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## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### SYMBOLS

Cl <sub>2</sub>	Chlorine
CWR	Clear Water Reservoir.
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
D	Depth
EC	Electrical Conductivity
MCM	Million Cubic Meters
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Ammonium
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Nitrate
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup>	Phosphate
Sal.	Salinity
SS	Suspended Solids
SSF	Slow Sand Filter
TDS	Total dissolved solids
T	Temperature
TPC	Total Plate Count

### ABBREVIATIONS

APHA	American Public Health Association
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem
BZU	Birzeit University
JWTP	Jericho Water Treatment Plant
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
UFW	Unaccounted For Water
UNRWA	United Nation Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees
WBWD	West Bank Water Authority
WQ	Wadi-Qilt



## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Jericho district is located about 350 m <sup>??</sup> ~~above~~ <sup>under</sup> sea level at the north east border of the district, and about 370 m below sea level at the area adjacent to the Dead Sea. Six main valleys cross Jericho district, namely Wadi Al-Mallaha, Wadi Al-Auja, Wadi Abu Ubeida, Wadi An-Nuw'ema, Wadi-Qilt and Wadi Al-Ghazal. The climate of Jericho district is classified as arid. The maximum average of temperatures during January (coldest month) and August (hottest month) is around 19°C and 38°C respectively. The highest maximum temperature reached to 49°C in June 1998 (Jericho weather station, 1998).

The rainy season in the Jericho district starts at mid October and continues to the end of April. The mean of annual rainfall at the Jericho city for the period 1968-1992 was 166 mm. the evaporation rate in the Jericho district highly varies between 59 mm when solar radiation is at its lowest level and 298.5 mm in July when solar radiation is at its highest. The geology of Jericho is composed of Marl & Pleistocene Alluvial formations (ARIJ, 1998).

#### Water Resources

Jericho water resources are part of the Eastern Aquifer Basin (EAB). Within EBA there are several aquifer systems in the Jericho district: mainly Lower Cenomanian, Upper Cenomanian, Turonian, Tertiary, and Quaternary Aquifer Systems. Wadi-Qilt springs are issuing for the upper Cenomanian Aquifer. (Elmosa, 1997).

### Groundwater Sources

1- Groundwater Wells: there are 63 irrigation wells in the Jericho district, 48 private wells owned by Palestinians, and 15 cooperative association wells owned by the Arab Development Society.

2- Springs: there are four main spring systems in the Jericho district 1) Wadi -Qilt Spring System which has a total average annual discharge of about 5 MCM, Wadi Qilt is fed from three main springs Ein Fara, Ein Fawwar and Ein -Qilt. 2) Ein Al-Sultan Spring System. 3) Dyouk Spring System. 4) Al-Auja Spring System (Rofe and Raffety, 1965).

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) represented by the West Bank Water Department (WBWD) is responsible for the water quality of Wadi-Qilt. Literature data on water quality analysis of Wadi-Qilt springs between 1967 and 1996 is illustrated in Table 1.1. A Full detailed chemical analysis of water taken from several springs in the region is illustrated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1: Chemical water analysis<sup>(1)</sup> of Wadi- Qilt springs (PWA,1998).

Date	TDS	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	K <sup>-</sup>	Na <sup>-</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Ca <sup>++</sup>
Sep.-1967	234.6	11	232	4.1	28	1.2	14	36.4	26
21-04-1982	216.9	11	173	10	29	2	23	15	42
25-11-1989	284.6	5	244	8.5	44	3.3	17	20	67
18-06-1991	264.2	8	240	10	27	1.4	19	16	65
22-11-1992	250.6	11	207	11.5	29	2.6	17.6	18.3	59
30-10-1995	-	15	225	8	35	2	20	17	50
29-10-1996	-	13	192	9	31	2	16	19	45

<sup>(1)</sup>All data are in mg/L



Table 2: Full chemical analysis <sup>(1)</sup> for some springs in the West Bank (Al-Sa'ed, & Alawneh, 1997).

Spring	TDS	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	K <sup>-</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Ca <sup>++</sup>
Barta'a	513	19	450	16	73	0.5	41	47	96
Shobli	369	16	295	15	59	2.2	32	29	72
Qilt Canal	261	11	230	10	30	1.8	19.8	18.6	58

<sup>(1)</sup>All data are in mg/L

The existing water treatment plant in Jericho supplies Aqbat-Jabr Camp with drinking water. This water treatment plant was built in 1956 by UNRWA and is still operated and managed by their staff. At present, about 5000 PE are served through a central water supply network; the actual current average of daily water consumption is less than 100 liters per capita per day.

Wadi-Qilt springs are the main water source for the JWTP. The water is transported through a 13-Km long old open canal. In the past (PNA, 1996), technical proposals were made to transport that water through pipes instead of using the open canal. However, due to financial constraints, these proposals were not implemented.

The treatment plant works properly in summertime, but since 1997 the operation of the treatment plant has been stopped in wintertime. Figure 1.1 shows the flow diagram for the water treatment process. The water treatment plant consists of three main slow sand filters (one filter is stand by) and a chlorinating unit.

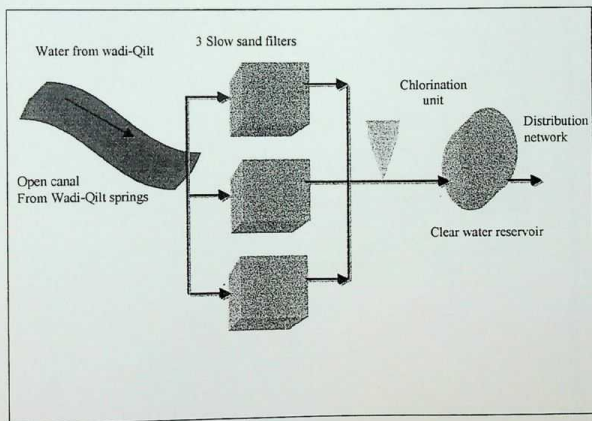


Figure 1.1: Schematic flow diagram for JWTP

The location of the study area is shown in Figure 1.2. It shows Jericho district, Aqbat-Jabr Refugees Camp, Jericho water treatment plant JWTP, and the surrounding valleys and springs.

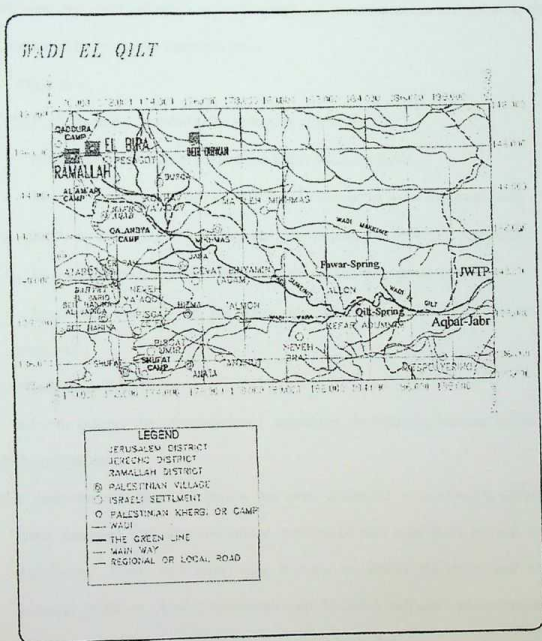


Figure 1.2: Location of the study area in Jericho district.

## 1.2 Scope of Work

### a) Aim

The main aim of this research is to investigate means of developing the technical solutions and cost effective reliable measures those optimize and enhance the operation of Jerihco water treatment plant.

### b) Objectives

The aim of this research includes the following objectives:

- Identify and evaluate the present and future water demands.
- Identify the existing technical problems of the existing water treatment plant.
- Study the water pollution sources and provide pollution preventive measures.
- Develop and introduce sustainable operational and managerial techniques.
- Economical analysis of the water price based on the proposed technical measures.

### c) Materials and Methods

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the following research methods will be carried out.

- 1) A comprehensive literature review has been conducted with respect to surface water treatment including specialized readings on slow sand filters, settling, and disinfecting. Field trips were made in order to identify the operational and technical problems. Also professionals from UNRWA staff and decision-makers who work at people from Aqbat-Jabr camp were contacted.
- 2) To know the potential pollutants, samples are collected from several stations along the open canal.



- 3) To measure water quality and the efficiency of the water treatment plant, samples are collected from the inlet and outlet of the water treatment plant.
- 4) Water sampling and analysis were carried out to find the operational parameters of the slow sand filter.
- 5) Define and develop the most possible and reliable operational parameter to achieve best water quality. For this, an experimental model of a slow sand filter was constructed, operated and monitored.
- 6) In order to enhance the efficiency of the water treatment plant and to avoid operational and technical problems, a new management structure of the water treatment plant is suggested.
- 7) In order to be able to achieve the analytical sampling and analysis; sampling bottles, chemical analysis and portable lab kits and equipment were necessary to carry out this research proposal. Chemical and biological analyses were made according to APHA (1989).

#### **d) Schedule of Activities**

The study was initiated in September 1998; field work was carried out to collect local information and technical data for the existing water treatment plant in Jericho. On site a physical and chemical water analysis were carried out during the field work. A literature review was made on slow sand filters, chlorination, and settling processes.

The time schedule to conduct this research is described as follows:

- 1) Data collection for the treatment plant and field visits to the camp office manager for history, maps, drawings, and establishment: October and November 1998.
- 2) Sampling and analysis: December 1998, January 1999, and February 1999.
- 3) Construction of slow sand filter experimental model: March 1999.
- 4) Results, analysis and discussion, conclusions and recommendations: April 1999 – May 1999.

## CHAPTER 3

**3. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Field work has been carried out in Jericho district within the period from September 1998 to April 1999. Local data of the existing water system and water treatment plant JWTP, urban development, qualities and quantities of raw water at Wadi-Qilt have been collected. The collected data are necessary for the optimization of JWTP, since there is a lack of data which concern the water system for the study area, the field work includes physical, chemical, and biological analysis for the raw water in the open canal at Wadi-Qilt region.

**3.1 Jericho Water Treatment Plant JWTP**

JWTP consists mainly of three slow sand filters, two supply water reservoirs, and chlorinating unit. The layout of the plant of JWTP which shows units presented in Annex A. Specifications of the water treatment units are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3.1: The Capacities of the water treatment units at JWTP.

Unit	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Water Depth (m)	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
Filter No. 1	134	1.0	134
Filter No. 2	134	1.0	134
Filter No. 3	134	1.0	134
Tank No. 1	157	2.3	361.1
Tank No. 2	113	5	565

### 3.1.1 Plant Operation

The slow sand filters were stopped before January 1999; therefore the only source of water was an Israeli water company (*MEKKORTH*), and January 1999, there was a little amount of rainfall during the period of study. So the effect and contribution of the pollution sources over the open canal was minimized, and the slow sand filters were cleaned and restarted to treat raw water from the open canal.

### 3.2 Slow Sand Filter Experimental model

A slow sand filter is simple in design, construction, and operation. The filter is mainly a bed of sand supported by gravel, which is contained within a box by means of adding and removing the water. One of the main objectives for constructing the experimental model of a slow sand filter is to determine the effect of turbid water on the sand filter operation, and to compare the results when constructing a settling tank as a pretreatment stage.

#### 3.2.1 Planing and Design

The experimental model of the slow sand filter will produce about 20 liters per hour or 480 liters per day if it operates continuously. A turbid water was prepared by mixing a specific quantity of soil with raw water from a rainfall collection well, which has the following characteristics: 0.3 NTU turbidity level, and a temperature of 15°C.

#### 3.2.2 Tools

- Gravel and sand screens for sizing and cleaning.
- Sand and gravel washing equipment.
- Drill and drill bits, ¼ in. bit to drill holes in the plastic barrel for a ¼ in. pipes.
- Barrel joining tools.

#### 3.2.3 Parts and Materials

- Raw water settling tank (60 L) for pretreatment to decrease turbidity.
- Two plastic barrels with a volume of 200 liters.
- 250 liters of sand with an effective size of 0.15–0.35 mm.



- 60 liter of gravel which has the following sizes: 20 liters 0.4–3.3 mm, 20 liters 3.3–6 mm, 20 liters of 6–12 mm.
- 6 meters of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. plastic pipes, 4 ball valves, sealant, small tiles.

### 3.2.4 Construction and Operation

To simulate the water treatment process at JWTP, a small-scale slow sand filter experimental model was constructed, operated, and monitored. The slow sand filter is made of two plastic barrels, each of which holds 200 liters: one stacked on the top of the other, making a total height of 180 cm. Then four holes are cut in the barrels: one for the coming raw water (influent), one for the treated water (effluent), one to drain the scum off the surface of the sand bed, and the fourth hole to drain the supernatant water at resanding time. Fig. 3.1 shows the two plastic barrels where the influent valve is installed at 135 cm high from the bottom, and the effluent hole is 6 cm high from the bottom. The scum valve is 170 cm high from the bottom, and the drainage valve is 85 cm from the bottom.

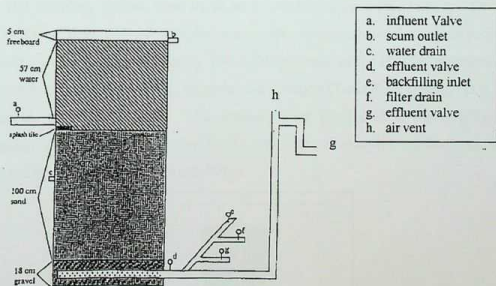


Figure 3.1: Configuration of the inlets and the outlets in the experimental model of the SSF

The water drain system consists of the gravel that support the sand layer and a plastic pipe is perforated with a 3 mm bit to be the under drain pipe, connected to the effluent valve. The gravel and sand are sized and cleaned, then the large gravel is put first, then followed by the smaller gravel for a total height of 18 cm. Then the lower barrel is filled with sand for a total height of 100 cm. Small tiles are placed on the surface of the sand bed to prevent erosion of the sand bed.

The startup phase of the slow sand filter was up filling of the barrels in order to remove air pockets from the sand bed. The up filling is performed by supplying water from the effluent valve while the remaining valves are closed except the drainage valve which is left open to remove the water from the surface of the sand bed. Fig. 3.2 shows the experimental model for the SSF under construction.

### 3.2.5 Water Quality Analysis of the Experimental Model

When the gelatinous brown layer of Schmutzedecke emerged on the top of the sand bed, the sampling bottles were sterilized by washing them with a boiling water for a few minutes, then 100 ml samples were collected and labeled for each experiment. Turbidity was measured by using the turbidity meter of the HACH laboratory Kit. Collected water samples for the bacterial enumeration (Total Plate Count, TPC), were preserved in an ice cooler. TPC analysis were conducted at the microbiology laboratory of Al-Quds University. Each parameter was analyzed triplicate during the period of operation (March – April 1999).

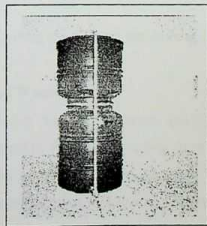


Figure 3.2: Experimental model for the SSF at JWTP.

### 3.3 Water Quality Analysis at JWTP

In order to identify the characteristics of the raw water, and to evaluate the efficiency of JWTP, composite samples were taken from the influent of the slow sand filters with an interval of one hour between each sampling, starting at 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 AM, and grab samples from the supply water reservoir were taken. Fig. 3.3 shows the sampling point in the influent manhole.

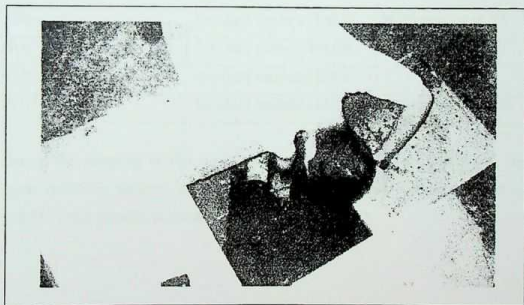


Figure 3.3: Water sampling from the influent manhole at JWTP

### 3.4 Site Measurements at Wadi-Qilt

In order to identify pollution sources, and water quality, six sampling stations were selected along the open canal in Wadi-Qilt, starting from Fawar-Spring and ending at JWTP. The sampling stations are shown in Annex B. The analysis and methods of preservation for the collected samples followed the procedures laid down in Standard Methods for Examining Water and Wastewater, (PAHA, 1989). The preservation methods and analysis are summarized in Table 3.2.

Parameters of interest to measure are: Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ), Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), Phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ), Total dissolved solids (TDS), Electrical Conductivity (E C), Turbidity (NTU), Temperature, pH, Sal. %, Chlorine, Total Plate Count, and Fecal Coliforms.

Table 3.2 Methods of analysis and preservation of samples.

Species	Analysis method	Preservation
TDS	Standard method	-
Total Plate Count Fecal Coliforms	Standard method	Refrigeration at 4°C
$\text{NH}_3$	Standard method-HACH	Refrigeration at 4°C
$\text{NO}_3^-$	Standard method-HACH	Refrigeration at 4°C
Chlorine	Standard method-HACH	-
$\text{PO}_4^{3-}$	Standard method-HACH	Refrigeration at 4°C

Beside the sampling in the water open canal at Wadi-Qilt, many photos of the open canal, sampling stations, and for JWTP were taken to show water pollution sources and for documentation purposes.

## CHAPTER 4

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Water Demand

Discharge flows in Jericho water treatment plant (JWTP) are classified as: production, delivery, consumption and leakage (Fig. 4.1).

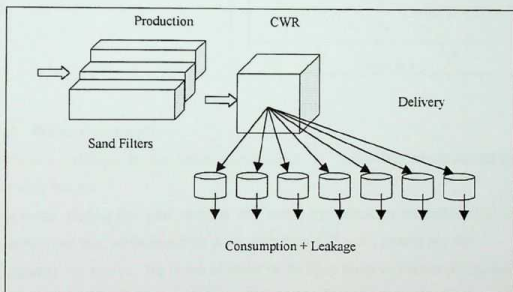


Figure 4.1: Water system at Aqbat-Jabr

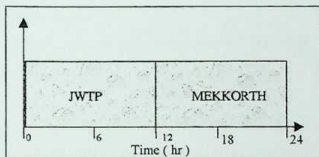
##### 4.1.1 Water Production

The existing open canal which supplies the JWTP with raw water from Wadi-Qilt springs has an annual average flow rate of 1000 m<sup>3</sup> per day. Since 1956 the owner of the open canal has been supplying the JWTP with 240 m<sup>3</sup> per day for production of drinking water and the remaining amount is used for agriculture, and since 1995 an extra 260 m<sup>3</sup> per day quantity of raw water has been being supplied for the JWTP to provide adequate quantity of potable water for Aqbat-Jabr camp.

### 4.1.2 Water Delivery

A clear water reservoir was constructed to be a balance storage at the entrance of the distribution network. The produced quantity of water is directly pumped from the treatment plant into the network, and for the past five years an additional pipe from *MEKKORTH* was used to supply more water for the camp, the delivery pattern is illustrated in Fig. 4-2.

Figure 4.2: Daily water delivery pattern for Aqbat-Jabr



### 4.1.3 Water Consumption

There is a variation in the water consumption at Aqbat-Jabr which caused by the following factors:

- Seasons: during the past summer the water consumption exceeded 800 cubic meters per day, while in winter it was less than 400 cubic meters per day.
- Capacity of source: the depth of water in the open canal was observed during the period of study. The maximum recorded depth of water was in the winter of 1999, about 15 cm at the entrance of the JWTP, while it was about 5 cm in the summer of 1998.
- Raw water quality: It was found that there was a drop in water consumption when there were problems in the JWTP. That drop was caused by an extensive discharge of pollutants in Wadi-Qilt.

### 4.1.4 Water Leakage

Water transport system at Aqbat-Jabr is of a serial or branched type. The total water network length is more than 23 km; the diameter of the main pipe is 6 inches of ductile iron; the water leakage is more or less considered to be constant and small because the old main pipes were replaced by new one.

The water demand is calculated at the JWTP in order to include leakage, and the average water demand is the mean value of the annual demand. Hence,

- The average water demand = 500 cubic meters per day.
- The specific demand equals 500 cubic meters per day divided by 5000 inhabitants in the camp, i.e.: 0.1 cubic meter per day per capita.

The following factors influence the demand pattern:

- a) *Water Usage*: the water demand in Jericho can be classified into the following categories: domestic, agriculture, and schools.
  
- b) *Water Consumers*: water use within each type may vary as a result of culture, education, religion, climate, technology. Within the area of the study there are two schools, military buildings, and the YMCA institute which has more than 250 students.
  
- c) *Age*: It was found that more than 60% of the population are between (10-25) years old.

#### 4.1.5 Unaccounted For Water (UFW)

It is the water quantity which is not paid for or registered. The main causes of UFW in Jericho are: improper maintenance of main pipes and houses connections, poor education, leakage, and water illegal use. It is evaluated by calculating the difference between the value of water which enters the system and the collected revenues. This difference exceeds more than 15% of the treated water at JWTP.

#### 4.1.6 Nondomestic Demand

It is the Water that consumed by livestock and for irrigation, the quantities for water needed for both types in Jericho are illustrated in Tables 4.1, 4.2.

Table 4.1: Seasonal crop water needs (Trifunovic,1997).

Crop	Season Days per year	Consumption .mm / season
Banana	300 – 365	1200 – 2200
Potato	105 – 145	500 – 700
Tomato	135 – 180	400 – 800

Table 4.2: Animal water consumption (Trifunovic,1997).

Animal	Consumption L / animal .day
Cow	25 – 150
Sheep, goat	5 – 6
Chicken per 100	25 – 30

#### 4.1.7 Demand Forecasting

Exponential model is used in order to predict water demand forecasting for the coming ten years. Thus,

$$Q_{2009} = Q_{1999} * (1 + a /100)^n$$

Where

$Q_{2009}$  = water demanded forecasting in 2009, cubic meter per day.

$Q_{1999}$  = 500 cubic meter per day in 1999.

a. = average annual population growth = 3.0 %

n. = design period = 10 years.

So,

$$Q_{2009} = 671.96 \text{ (672 cubic meter per day).}$$

#### 4.2 Sources of Pollution

The several walks along the open canal starting from Fawar spring towards the JWTP, have shown that there are four principal pollution sources: natural pollution, pollution from wastewater discharge in Wadi-Qait, pollution reaching bodies by an indirect way, and pollution incidental to water sources management.



*Natural pollution:* it involves pollution of rain by the impurities of the atmosphere from the following sources:

- Large stone cutting and asphalt making factories several kilometers far from Wadi-Qilt, which discharge clouds of dusts and hazardous impurities.
- The dumping sites for the following areas: Al-Bireh city, Anata, Hezma, Jabaa, Mukhmas, Kfr-Aqb, Anata-Camp, and the Israelis settlements near those villages. These sites are not owned by the municipal council in each location. Most sites are started with small areas, then expanding on the expense of the local authorities, on the other hand these sites are not chosen in accordance with environmental considerations, and some of these sites are unable to receive any solid waste. There is no treatment facility in these sites, except burning the body of the land fill which generates huge black smoke and hazardous impurities in the atmosphere.
- Soil and rocks pollution.

#### 4.2.1 Pollution From Wastewater Discharge

The streams of wastewater (untreated, partially treated, intensively treated) reach Wadi-Swenetta directly or indirectly by soil pollution and leaching out of soil pollution by percolation to ground water or surface runoff as shown in Figure 4.4. Streams of wastewater are discharged directly in the same wadi, from the following areas:

- Al-Bireh city
- Kfr-Aqb
- Jabaa
- Anata Camp
- Al-Bireh dumping site
- Anata
- The following Israeli settlements:
  - Besjat-Zeieb, Aiamon, Antot, Ras-Taweel, Ma'ale Adummim, and Pesagot

The largest wastewater pollution in Wadi-Qilt was in 1987 where all fish and other forms of life died and the color of water turned into a gray color with odor. The main source of that pollution was Al-Bireh city, Besgat-Zeieb, and Jerusalem Electricity Company. The Israeli Nature Authority prevent some of the mentioned settlements from discharging their wastewater into the valley. These measures have reduced the waste water pollution, but the problem still exists, especially in winter, as shown in Fig. 4.3, where large areas in Wadi-Qilt were covered with wastewater.

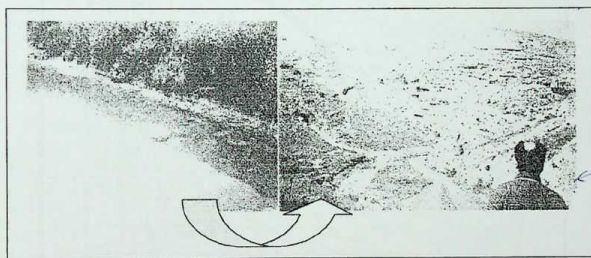


Figure 4.3: Wastewater near Fawar-Spring in Wadi-Qilt.

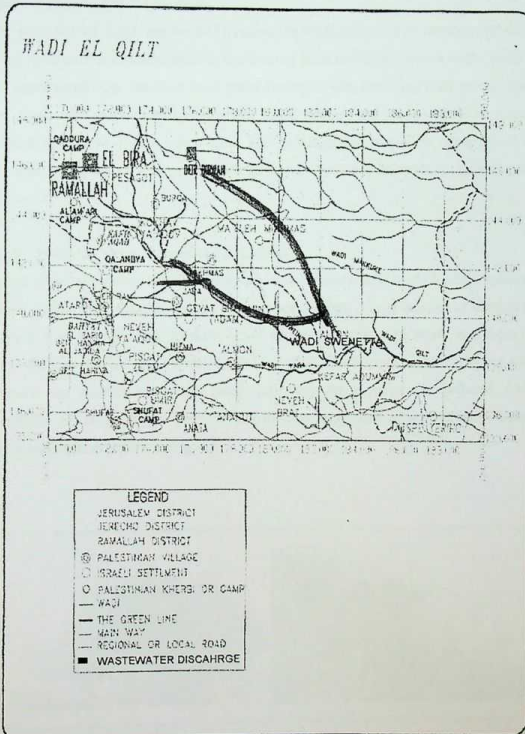


Figure 4.4: Wastewater discharge in Wadi Swenetta

#### 4.2.2 Pollution From Livestock

The presence of large numbers of livestock in Wadi-Qilt have an obvious and direct effect on bacterial contamination in the form of fecal coliform bacteria in the water of the open canal. On the other hand many Bedouins who are living their used to wash and clean their cattle directly in the open canal. Manure and wastewater from Animal feeding operations in the open canal add pollutants to the water stream such as: nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, pathogens, heavy metals, hormones, antibiotics and ammonia.

#### 4.2.3 Pollution From Recreational Activities

Recreational activities, such as camping and walking in Wadi-Qilt, can impact the water quality and flow properties in the open canal. Large number of visitors are visiting this area because it is the oldest and lowest area in the world, and there is a very old church (*Der Mar-Juries*) down the valley. The open canal itself, where many visitors are walking along the canal until they reach Jericho is polluted. Large quantities of cans, plastic bags, bottles, clothes, stones and others can be seen along the open canal, as shown in Fig. 4.5.

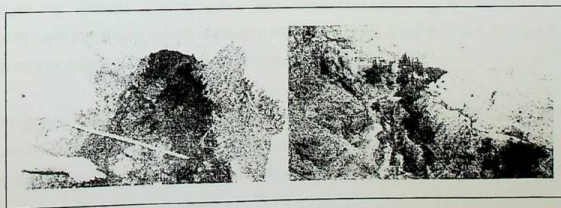


Figure 4.5: Stones and plastic in the water open canal near Der Mar Juries.

#### 4.2.4 Pollution From Algae

Surface water is habitats for the growth of algae, the amount of growth of algae in the open canal is extensive because there are nutrients, turbidity, temperature, and sun light in summertime and in wintertime as shown in Fig. 4.6.

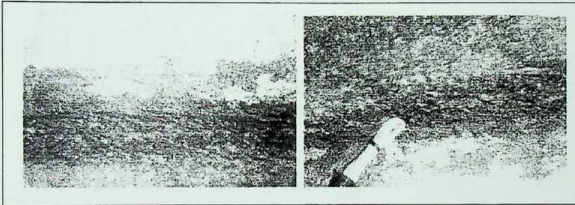


Figure 4.6: Extensive growth of algae in the water open canal

The growth of algae in the open canal in Wadi-Qilt is gradually increasing with increasing of new residential colonies in the surrounding area, which increase the discharge of municipal wastes in the valley. In January 1999 through May a high growth of blue-green algae was observed and in July 1998 through December green algae was observed. The blue-green algae showed a maximum growth rate in April 1999, and a minimum growth in January 1999, while green algae showed a maximum growth in August 1998, and a minimum growth in December 1998.

Phosphorus and nitrate are an essential factors in supporting the growth of algae. The concentrations of both species in the samples which were collected during the period of study from the open canal at the entrance of the JWTP are shown in Fig. 4.7.

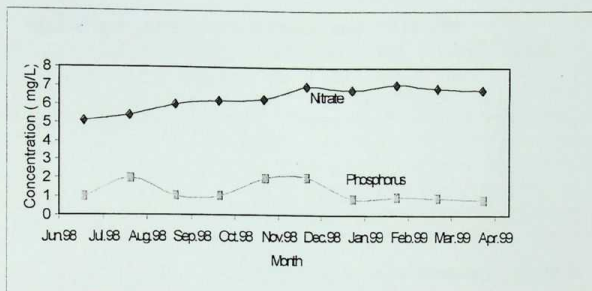


Figure 4.7: Phosphorus and Nitrate concentration in the sampling stations. (1998-99)

### 4.3 Water Sampling in the Water Open Canal

In order to predict the water quality in the open canal through its traveling 13 km long branch in Wadi-Qilt, where it is subjected to the several types of pollution, samples were collected from different stations along the open canal, each station is about 2 km far from the other station starting from Fawar-spring as shown in appendix B. Tables 4.3, 4.4 shows chemical analysis of the water in the open canal. The concentration of nitrate between WQ1 and WQ6 was relatively small, and there was no big difference.

Table 4.3: Water samples analysis for the water open canal - 27/12/1998

Station	PH	T (°C)	TDS (mg/L)	Salinity (%)	EC ( $\mu$ S)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mg/L)	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	Turbidity NTU
WQ1	7.01	14.2	442	0.2	800	8.0	0.25	3.5
WQ2	7.03	14.9	446	0.2	805	8.5	0.27	3.7
WQ3	7.12	14.7	449	0.2	805	8.5	0.28	4.2
WQ4	7.22	14.6	452	0.2	817	9.0	0.3	5.3
WQ5	8.01	15.0	461	0.2	830	10.0	0.3	7.0
WQ6	8.02	15.5	470	0.2	835	12.0	0.3	10.5

Table 4.4: Water samples analysis for the open canal - 11/ 04 /1999

Station	pH	T (°C)	TDS (mg/L)	Salinity (%)	EC (µs)	NO <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	Turbidity NTU
WQ1	7.6	19.5	340	0.3	701	6.0	0.4	1.5
WQ2	7.73	19.9	341	0.3	702	5.0	0.4	2.0
WQ3	7.74	20	342	0.3	717	8.0	0.5	3.0
WQ4	8.14	22.9	344	0.3	718	7.0	0.7	4.0
WQ5	8.13	22.8	344	0.3	718	6.0	0.7	4.0
WQ6	8.2	22.7	343	0.3	718	6.0	0.8	4.5

At the entrance of the JWTP water samples were collected during the period of study (1998-1999), and several measurements for the turbidity were performed as shown in Fig. 4.8. During the peak values of turbidity the JWTP was stopped and the turbid water was used for irrigation only and the pipe of *MEKKORTH* was opened to supply Aqbat-Jabr with water which has a turbidity level less than 1 NTU.

Table 4.5 shows that the concentrations of nitrate, and ammonia at sampling stations which were not large. This is because of extensive algal growth and weak nitrification process in the open canal, since nitrifiers are Cessile bacteria, which need support material and non-turbulent flow velocity, and these conditions are not prevailing in the open canal. So do not expect much nitrate in the raw water, even it might be polluted, however during the sampling period the pollution from wastewater was at minimum.

Table 4.5: Nitrate, Ammonia, and Ammonium concentrations - 04/08/1999

Station	NO <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	NH <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> (mg/L)
WQ1	4	1	1.30
WQ3	5	1.1	1.43
WQ6	6	0.9	1.17

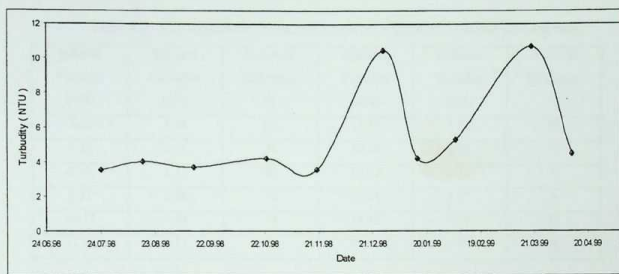


Figure 4.8: Variation of turbidity at the entrance of JWTP.

#### 4.4 Operation and Management at JWTP

The Water Treatment Plant JWTP was visited frequently each week during the period of study in order to identify the operational and management problems. There are three principal sources of operational problems: turbidity, extensive algae growth in the open canal and the filters, and available water pressure. There are three principal sources of management problems: management structure in JWTP, training of the operators in JWTP, and communications.

##### 4.4.1 Turbidity

When the turbidity levels exceeded 20 NTU the slow sand filters were stopped due to clogging of the voids among the sand grains. A pretreatment, including settling is proposed to lower the turbidity levels. Fig. 4.9 shows the proposed layout at JWTP, the settling can be used for another purposes such as pre-chlorination when there is a heavily polluted raw water from the open canal, and for chemicals dosing. Laboratory tests to predict the proposed pretreatment which includes settling, were carried out utilizing the designed experimental model of a slow sand filter during the period of study. Table 4.6 lists the input level of turbidity in the influent and the levels of turbidity in the effluent without using a pretreatment. Table 4.7 lists the effluent turbidity when using the proposed settling tank. Both results are shown in Fig. 4.10. Fig. 4.11 shows the removal efficiency for the experimental model in both cases.



Table 4.6: SSF experimental model Removal efficiency without settling tank.

Influent Turbidity NTU	Effluent Turbidity NTU	Removal Efficiency %	Influent Turbidity NTU	Effluent Turbidity NTU	Removal Efficiency %
5.22	1.73	67	15.71	3.63	77
7.31	2.16	71	16.34	4.01	75
8.43	2.52	70	19.67	4.38	78
9.27	2.78	71	21.31	5.13	76
10.15	2.70	74	25.49	6.97	73
11.36	3.12	73	27.85	*	0

Table 4.7: SSF experimental model Removal efficiency with settling tank.

Influent Turbidity NTU .t = 0 hour	Influent Turbidity NTU .t = 1 hour	Influent Turbidity NTU .t = 2 hour	Effluent Turbidity NTU	Removal Efficiency %
5.22	4.31	3.21	0.72	86
7.31	6.45	4.78	0.81	89
8.43	7.12	5.12	0.98	88
9.27	8.11	6.26	1.82	91
10.15	9.32	6.83	2.02	80
11.36	10.36	7.03	2.51	78
12.82	11.55	8.34	2.66	79
13.58	12.57	9.49	2.98	78
15.71	13.23	10.14	3.31	79
16.34	14.15	10.79	3.55	78
19.67	15.62	12.09	4.03	80
21.31	18.66	14.88	4.67	78
25.49	20.34	16.79	4.98	81
27.85	24.36	17.87	5.33	81
42.74	36.54	19.91	6.33	85
50.87	41.22	25.98	6.76	86

(\* : The filter was clogged, effluent flow rate = 0)

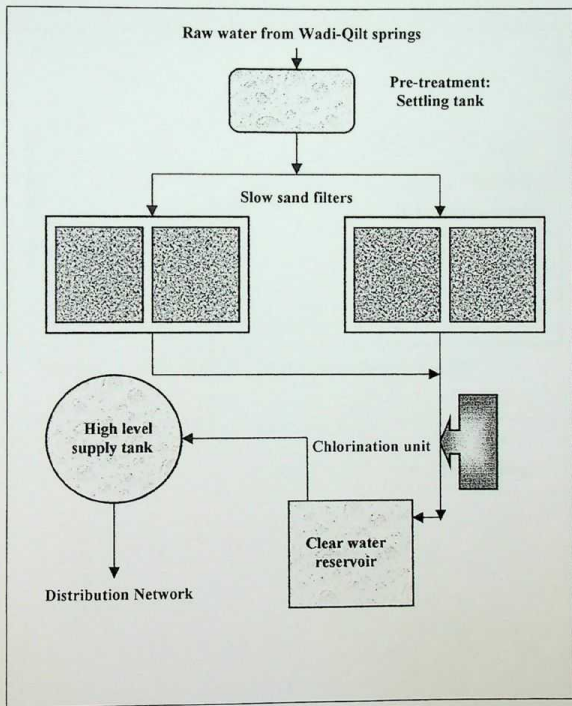


Figure 4.9: Schematic diagram for the proposed water treatment plant at JWTP.

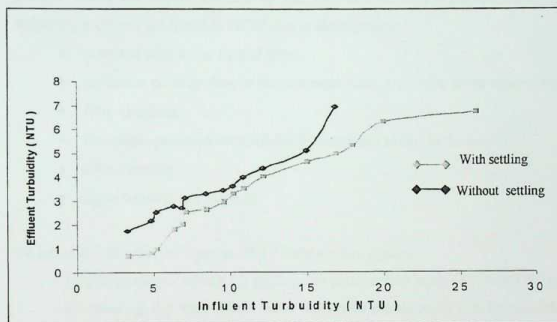


Figure 4.10 : Effluent turbidity levels with and without settling tank.

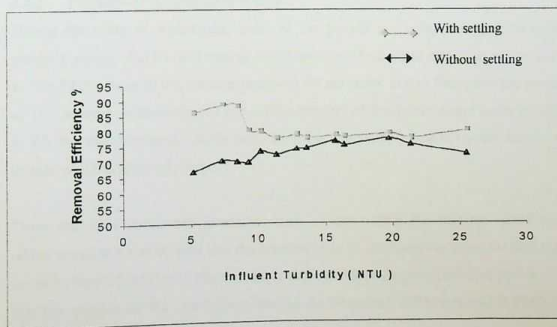


Figure 4.11: Turbidity removal efficiency for the SSF experimental model.

#### 4.4.2 Algae Growth

Water open canal, sand filter basins, and water supply tank, are habitats for algae growth, which are mainly affected by the light and nutrients in the raw water. The following problems are found in JWTP due to algae growth:

- taste and odor in the treated water.
- resistance of water flow in the treatment plant, and in the water open canal.
- filter clogging.
- blue algae produces extracellular products and toxins in the water.
- filter cleaning.
- algae removal and disposal .

To minimize the effect of algae at JWTP there are two options:

- 1) adding copper sulfate 1.7 mg/L in the pretreatment stage (AWWA,1990).
- 2) covering the sand filters with removable plastic cover which reduce the sunlight, therefore it reduce the algae growth.

#### 4.4.3 Pressure of the Supplied Water

During the visits to Aqbat-Jabr, most of the people are complaining from water pressure saying that it is not enough to fill their roof tanks, and other consumers such as the YMCA have to buy booster pumps to fill the tanks. It was found that the length of the network is more than 23 km, so the quantity of the treated water is not enough to fill the whole network. On the other hand the main supply line has a diameter of 6 inches, which is relatively large.

There are other operational problems such as controlling the feeding rate. While taking samples it was noticed that the operator used to increase the water feeding rate for more than 0.6 m/h to fill the sand filter more quickly. Another technical problem is that the erosion of the sand when feeding the filters and short-circuiting is likely to happen.

#### 4.4.4 Management Structure at JWTP

The evaluation of the water treatment plant management program at JWTP illustrates some of the unique problems of conflicting goals and constraints associated with an area under rapid development while facing conditions of scarcity. Figure 4.12 shows the existed management structure at JWTP.

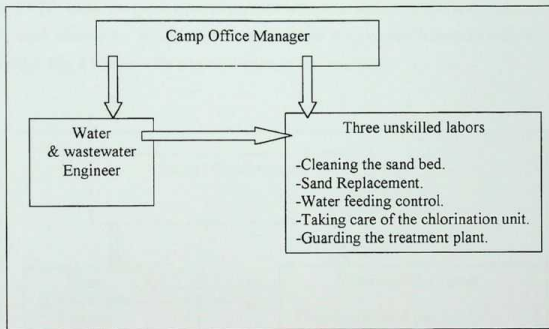


Figure 4.12: Schematic presentation of the existing management structure at JWTP.

The proposed management structure includes another skilled labor, who will perform water sampling from the pretreatment tank, water reservoir, water supply tank, and five sampling points in Aqbet-Jaber camp. Also he will perform a monthly sampling from selected sampling points along the water open canal in Wadi-Qilt, and he will do the chlorination for the water reservoir. All samples should be collected in accordance with procedures set forth in the Standard Methods For Examination Of Water And Wastewater. The sampling employee will measure the following parameters monthly from the water open canal:

- 1) Color.
- 2) Total Coliform / 100 ml.

3) Odor.

4) pH.

Another chemical analysis such as measuring Nitrate, Sodium, Chloride, Alkalinity, Hardness, Iron, and Manganese, should be measured semi-annually. These guidelines for monitoring the water supply system require the presence of laboratory equipment at JWTP, there are many types of portable laboratory such as HACH Kits which can be used effectively. Biological test can be done at the nearest laboratory in Jericho district. Fig. 4.13 shows the proposed management structure.

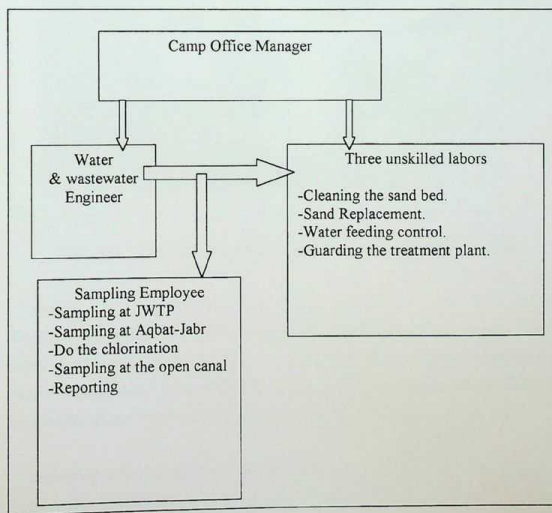


Figure 4.13: Schematic presentation of the proposed management structure at JWTP.

JWTP.

**Training:** many problems in the technical operation results from the lack of training of the maintenance labors, such problems can be seen in Fig. 4.14 where it shows incorrect method for measuring the residual chlorine for a water sample from the water reservoir. On the other hand there is no communication device such a telephone between the labors at JWTP and the camp office manager.

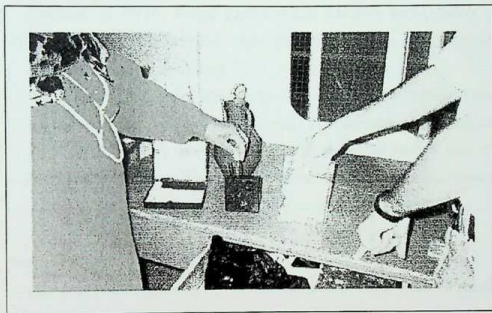


Figure 4.14: Measuring the residual Chlorine for a sample from the CWR.

### Operation

The technical operation of JWTP must fulfill the following requirements: Treated water as a drinking water source, all parties involved in the technical operation of JWTP (management level: UNRWA, Aqbet-Jaber Camp and technical staff) are responsible for providing a safe drinking water of the following:

- Free of water born disease causing pathogens.
- Free of microorganisms.
- Clear, odor free, and without objectionable taste by consumers.
- Water quality according to the Palestinian Standards for drinking water.
- Sufficient quantity of drinkable quality, and with enough pressure to households.

### Management Level

The UNRWA and Aqbat-Jabr Camp are responsible for management and operation of JWTP. They must fulfill the followings:

- The JWTP must be operated to deliver a drinkable water according to the Palestinian Standards for drinking water.
- Provision of organizational, personnel, and financial aspects to ensure adequate operation of JWTP. Proper personnel and adequate water quality monitoring program must be provided. Job description, duties, and responsibilities of technical staff must be defined.
- The operators must have adequate level of education and training. They must get regular technical and scientific training. New operators, must undertake regular health check, or every three years once by an accredited Medical Laboratory.
- Provision of safety measures and regulations. Public awareness, campaigns on the role and significance of JWTP should be made.

### Technical Staff

- The duties and responsibilities of technical staff are clear and well specified in the job description and employment contract.
- The staff have to report regularly on water quality, of treated water and on pollution events, to identify the source, causes, and provide proper solution.
- The staff must be mentally and physically best qualified for this high demand post. Technical understanding, hard work skills, basic natural and engineering knowledge in water treatment and water analysis must be available.
- Germ carrier, ill or epidemic suspected persons are not qualified as technical staff. The technical staff should apply all possible and available safety protective measures and regulations.





#### 4.5 Economical Analyses

The prices of the supplied water at Aqbat-Jabr are as follows:

- From JWTP: 1.0 NIS per cubic meter.
- From MEKKORTH: 2.0 NIS per cubic meter.

If the water consumption exceeds 500 cubic meters per day the owner of the water open canal takes 0.5 NIS for each additional cubic meter.

##### 4.5.1 Investment Costs for JWTP Process Modification

In order to apply the management and technical modification they must be economically feasible. After cost estimation for process modification, a water price comparison between JWTP and MEKKORTH is made as follows:

The modifications on water treatment process are as follows:

- Erection of new settling tank (30 m<sup>3</sup>) = 30000 NIS
- Plastic cover for sand filters = 5000 NIS
- Mobile water quality Kits = 10000 NIS

The total annual costs of this process modification consist of the fixed and variable costs. The fixed costs are those for settling tank, plastic cover, and mobile water quality kits. The variable costs are the salary of the new employee and operation and maintenance costs (2000 NIS).

*For a consumption of 500 cubic meter per day:*

Water Supply: JWTP

Monthly water consumption =  $500 \times 30 = 15000$  cubic meter per month

Monthly cost =  $15000 \times 1 \text{ NIS} = 15000 \text{ NIS}$

Annual cost =  $15000 \times 12 = 180000 \text{ NIS}$

Fixed cost = 45000 NIS

Money back period (n) = 10 years

Assuming interest rate (r) = 8 %

$$\text{Annuity} = I \times (r / (1 - (1 / (1+r)^n)))$$

Where, I: Investment

Hence, Annuity = 6706.3 NIS

$$\text{Total annual Cost} = 180000 + 6706.3 + 2000 \times 13 = 212706.3 \text{ NIS}$$

Water Supply: *MEKKORTH*

Monthly water consumption =  $500 \times 30 = 15000$  cubic meter per month

Monthly cost =  $15000 \times 2 \text{ NIS} = 30000 \text{ NIS}$

Annual cost =  $30000 \times 12 = 360000 \text{ NIS}$

Fixed cost = 0 NIS

$$\text{Total annual Cost} = 360000 \text{ NIS}$$

The difference between the annual costs = 147294 NIS

→ The Annuity increase over the ten years (with *MEKKORTH*) = 14729 NIS/ year.

## CHAPTER 5

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Conclusions

- After ten years, in 2009 JWTP will be able to provide a sufficient quantity of water if a new slow sand filter is added near the existing filters, since the forecasting water demand will be about 672 cubic meters of water per day, while JWTP has a production capacity of 500 cubic meters of water per day.
- The existing clear water supply tank has a volume of 361 cubic meters, which is insufficient for filling the pipes in the network which has a length of 23 km. Therefore the available pressure will be insufficient for filling the roof tanks of the consumers at Aqbat-Jabr.
- The search for pollution sources in the study area shows that, the discharge of municipal wastes at Wadi-Swenetta is mainly coming from Al-Bireh city and the near Israeli settlements. Therefore, both parts must be responsible for water quality degradation, and any related damaged for the environment.
- The identified recharge area in the study area which is located within the green line is not representative, because it must be defined with reference to the location of the existing springs (*see Annex C*).
- The water sampling and analysis show turbidity levels above 20 NTU for more than a few days at a time, which causes failure of the treatment process and clogging of the sand filters.



- There are two options that can be used to reduce extensive algal growth in the slow sand filters. First, by reducing the sunlight over the sand filters, using plastic covers. Second, by adding chemicals such as copper sulfate.
- The relationship between the growth of blue algae and temperature is positive at JWTP, while it is negative between the growth of green algae and temperature.
- According to the raw water sampling analysis (Fig. 4.7), the extensive growth of algae has a close relation with the concentration of phosphorus and nitrate in raw water.
- JWTP is poorly operated and managed.
- According to the results of the experiments on the designed slow sand filter experimental model, turbidity and coliforms are the main constraints for the operation of a SSF. A turbidity level more than 20 NTU will cause clogging of the sand bed, and the large number of coliforms requires an efficient method for disinfection, such as chlorination.
- Based on the results of the experiments on the experimental model of a slow sand filter, the existing treatment process at JWTP can be operated continuously with a turbidity removal efficiency exceeding 85% if there is a settling tank for the influent.
- Sand erosion at the surface of the sand bed is likely to happen because the water feeding rate at JWTP exceeds the design value (0.2-0.3 m/h), also because of short-circuiting which occurs through the sand bed.

- According to the results of the economical analysis, it is found that JWTP with the proposed modification will be an economical feasible option compared to *MEKKORTH*.

## Recommendations

- It is recommended for future planing that the water from the open canal must be used at JWTP, because high percent of the used water in agriculture is lost by evaporation. On the other hand the people of the region must start thinking more seriously in reuse of wastewater for irrigation since the region will suffer in the coming future from the conditions of water scarcity.
- Erection of new operation units (sedimentation tank, slow sand filter, upgrading the size of clean water holding tank as an urgent need). This will enhance the treatment efficiency of JWTP at low investment costs.
- It is recommended once the sensitive areas are defined, the outside recharge areas activities resulting from urban development should not be ignored. Therefore a regional water quality management plan is needed to identify specific regulations and land use for this area, also it will be responsible for taking samples at water sources and analyses.
- A training program must be given to all labors at JWTP in order to avoid operational, managerial problems, and minimize public health risks.
- In order to decrease water losses effective maintenance is needed. Therefore it is important to have a specialized group with necessary tools, vehicles, and well-organized plan for the proper maintenance of the network, meters, and the treatment plant.
- Conducting of public awareness programs in the sphere of aquatic environment protection, the wise use of water will minimize pollution and pressure of water sources. And raise the public environmental awareness through media, schools, seminars, video clips, professional conferences.



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**Appendix A****Layout of the Existing Water Treatment Plant in Jericho**

FIGURE 1 : shows the site plan for Jericho water treatment plant which contains the following units:

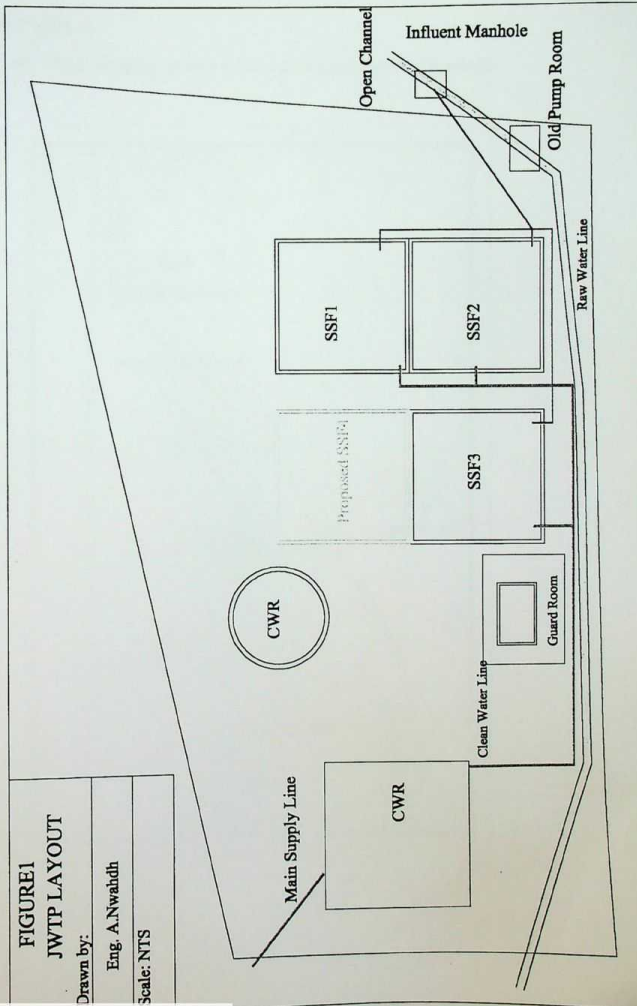
- three existing water pools ( slow sand filters ).
- the site for the proposed slow sand filter.
- two supply water reservoirs.
- the guard room which contains the chlorinating unit and the electrical control box for JWTP.
- pump room which is an old mechanical pump used to pump water to a service tank ( not shown in the map because it is out of the site plan ).
- part of the open channel.
- treatment plant entrance.

**FIGURE 1**  
**JWTP LAYOUT**

Drawn by:

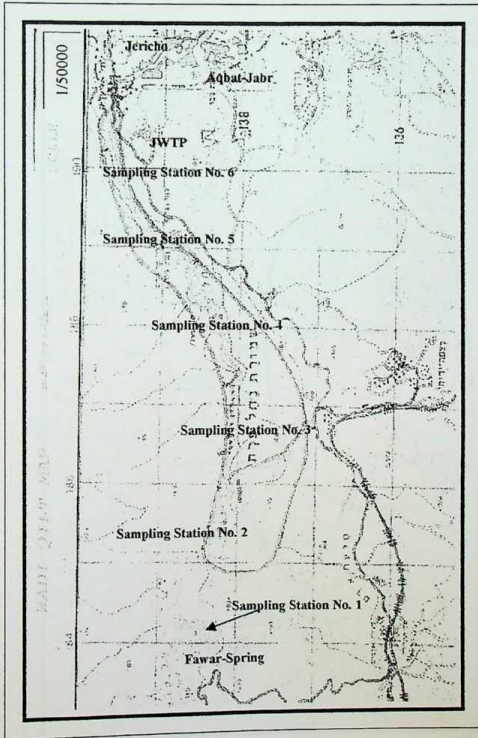
Eng. A.Nwahdh

Scale: NTS



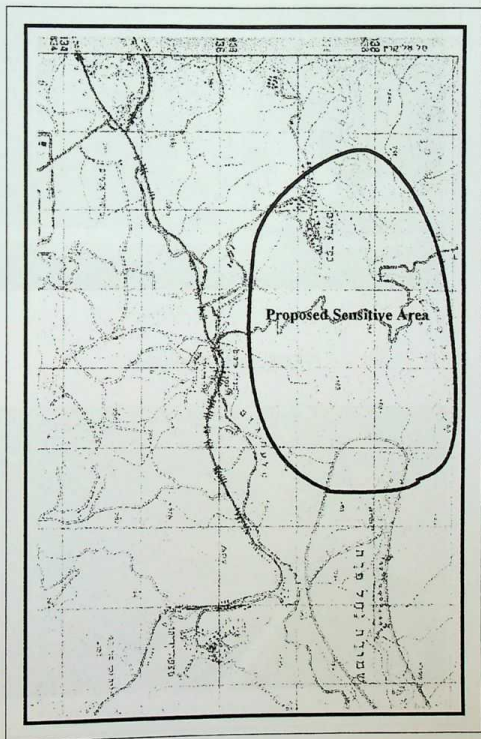
APPENDIX B

B.1 :Water Sampling Stations in the water Open Channel at Wadi-Qilt

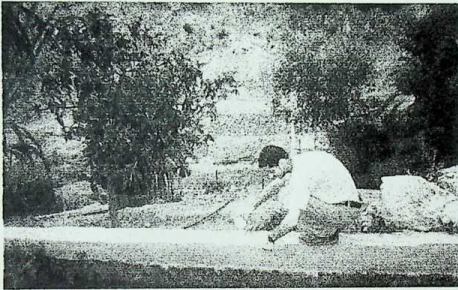


Appendix C

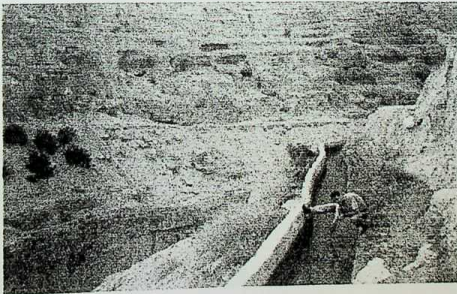
C.1 : Proposed Sensitive Area at Wadi-Qilt



Sampling Station (WQ3)



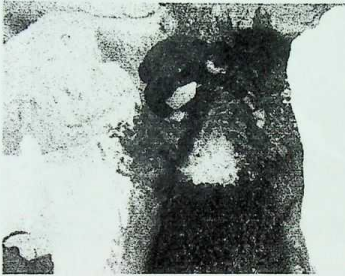
Sampling Station (WQ 4)



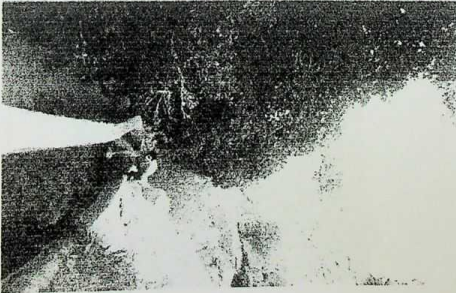
Appendix D: Pictures for the Study area and for JWTP

D.1 : Water Sampling Stations

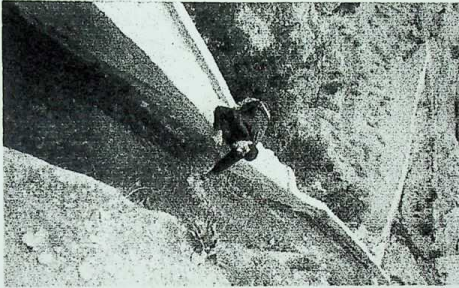
Sampling Station (WQ1)



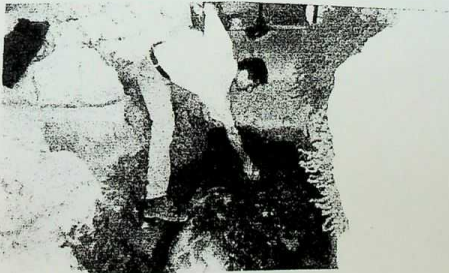
Sampling Station (WQ2)



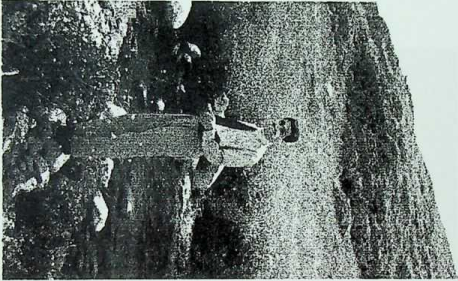
Sampling Station (WQ5)



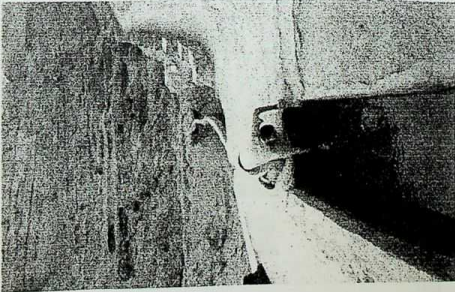
Sampling Station (WQ6)



Reporting at Fawar-Spring

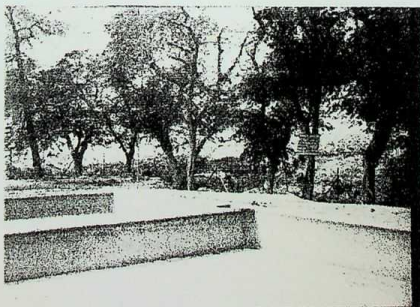
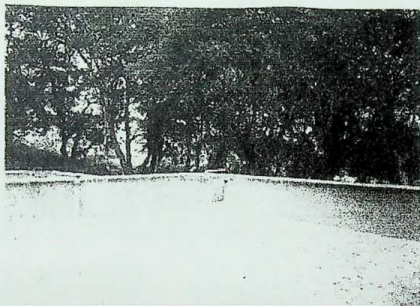


Sampling in the Open Canal

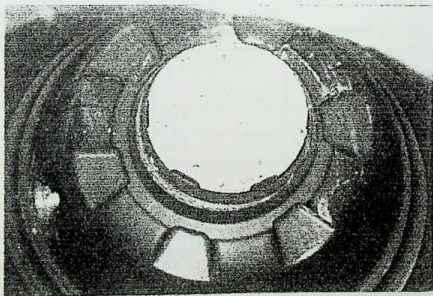




Slow Sand Filters at JWTP



Experimental Model for SSF



## Appendix E : Field Tests at Wadi-Qilt

E1: Turbidity variation in the open channel (WQ6)

Date	pH	Temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C)	Turbidity NTU
24.07.98	8.14	22.9	3.54
16.08.98	8.14	22.7	4.01
13.09.98	8.13	22.4	3.71
23.10.98	8.20	22.6	4.2
20.11.98	8.22	22.5	3.57
27.12.98	8.21	16.0	10.5
15.01.99	7.74	19.5	4.21
05.02.99	7.60	18.0	5.3
19.03.99	7.73	15.0	10.71
11.04.99	7.74	21.0	4.5

E.2 : Phosphorus and nitrate concentration in the open channel (WQ6)

Date	pH	Temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (mg/L)	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> (mg/L)
July 1998	8.14	23.0	5.1	1.00
August 1998	8.14	22.7	5.4	2.00
September 1998	8.13	22.4	6.0	1.04
October 1998	8.20	22.6	6.2	1.06
November 1998	8.22	22.5	6.3	2.01
December 1998	8.21	16.0	7.0	2.04
January 1999	7.74	19.5	6.8	0.90
February 1999	7.60	18.0	7.1	1.01
March 1999	7.73	15.0	6.9	0.96
April 1999	7.74	21.0	6.8	0.84

## E.3 : Total and Free Chlorine Concentrations

Station	Free Chlorine mg/L	Total Chlorine mg/L
WQ1	0.02	0.03
WQ2	0.02	0.03
WQ3	0.01	0.03
WQ4	0.01	0.03
WQ5	0.01	0.02
WQ6	0.01	0.02
CWR at JWTP	0.44	0.46

## E.4 : Total Plate Count and Fecal Coliforms Concentrations – 27 / 12 / 98

Station	TPC/100 mL	Fecal-coliforms / 100 mL
WQ1	200	100
WQ2	300	100
WQ3	300	100
WQ4	400	200
WQ5	400	200
WQ6	500	200
CWR at JWTP	0.0	0.0

## E.5 : Total Plate Count and Fecal Coliforms Concentrations – 11 / 4 / 99

Station	TPC/100 mL	Fecal coliforms / 100mL
WQ1	400	200
WQ2	400	200
WQ3	400	200
WQ4	600	300
WQ5	600	300
WQ6	600	300
CWR at JWTP	0.0	0.0

## الخلاصة

تم في هذا البحث تناول محطة معالجة المياه الموجودة حاليا في مدينة أريحا والتي هي الوحيدة من نوعها في فلسطين وتنتج يوميا ما يقارب الخمسمائة متر مكعب من المياه الصالحة للشرب والتي تستهلك من قبل سكان نجيم عقبة حبرم والبالغ عدد سكانه خمسة آلاف نسمة. تم تأسيس هذه المحطة عام 1956 من قبل وكالة القوات الدولية وتم تحديث طريقة عملها من قبل مساعدات مالية خارجية من المانيا، ادارة وتشغيل المحطة منوط بالانزوا من خلال ادارة نجيم عقبة حبرم للاجئين الفلسطينيين.

تتكون المحطة الحالية من ثلاثة أحواض وملية تعمل بنظام الترشيح الطبيعي وبعد ذلك يتم إضافة الكلور من أجل تعقيم المياه من الميكروبات والجراثيم ومن ثم يتم تخزين المياه المعالجة في خزان التوزيع لشبكة مياه المستهلكين هذه المحطة تعمل بشكل جيد في فصل الصيف ولكنها تعمل بشكل متقطع في الفصول الأخرى وبالخاص في فصل الشتاء، إن مصدر المياه الطبيعية محطة المعالجة هو النابيع الموجودة في وادي القلط والتي ينبع منها مياه عذبة ولكنها تلوث خلال رحلتها الطويلة أكثر من 13 كم في القناة المكشوفة بسبب عناصر كثير أهمها الاتصال بالمياه العادمة القادمة من المناطق المحاورة والتي تسبب تلوث بكتيري في الأيام الماطرة يصل لأكثر من 880 مستعمرة بكتيرية لكل 100 ملللمتر من الماء، ويصل معدل العكارة في المصدر يزيد عن (30 NTU) ويوجد نمو كثيف للطحالب في كل من قناة المياه المغذية وأحواض المعالجة الرملية. هذا من ناحية فنية أما من ناحية إدارية فإن المحطة غير قادرة على الاستمرار في العمل بشكل فعال في ظل الطاقم الموجود حاليا بسبب قلة المهارة والخبرة في إدارة المحطة. تعد محطة معالجة المياه المصدر الوحيد لمياه الشرب ولكن انقطاعها في الآونة الأخيرة دفع المستهلكين للبحث عن مصدر بديل وهو شركة (مكروت) الإسرائيلية والتي زودتهم بكمية قليلة من المياه وسعر مضاعف.

إن الهدف من إجراء هذا البحث هو إيجاد الوسائل الفعالة من أجل تحديث محطة معالجة المياه الحالية من الناحية الفنية والإدارية لتعمل بكفاءة عالية حتى تزود نجيم عقبة حبرم بمياه شرب ذات جودة عالية. حيث أظهرت نتائج التحاليل المخبرية والتجارب العملية في هذا البحث أن المحطة الحالية يجب أن يتم تطويرها فنيا بحيث يتم إضافة خزان ترسيب والذي يعمل في أيام الشتاء بشكل خاص وفي أي وقت تكون فيه عكارة المياه عالية أو وجود تلووث بكتيري، كما أثبتت التجارب التي تمت على النموذج التجريبي أن المحطة يمكنها أن تصل إلى كفاءة 85% في إزالة عكارة المياه العالية ودون نمو الطحالب في حالة تحديث الوضع الحالي للمحطة.

دلت جميع المعطيات من هذا البحث على ضرورة استخدام المصادر الطبيعية المتوفرة في وادي القلط وأي مكان آخر في فلسطين بشكل فعال لأن المنطقة بأكملها تعاني من شح في المياه. هذا يتطلب إضافة منشآت فنية جديدة وتبني سياسة إدارية فاعلة في إدارة وعمل محطة معالجة المياه والمصادر الطبيعية المتاحة من أجل تلبية احتياجات السكان في غضون سنوات القادمة.



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رسالة ماجستير مقدمة من

امين اسماعيل امين نواهضة

الرقم الجامعي : 975139

باشراف

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