

Title:

Jordan's Commercial Oil Shale Exploitation Strategy

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The paper explains Jordan's Oil Shale Development Strategy and discusses the mechanisms to put Jordan on the road to greater energy independence and make it a pioneer country into commercial applications. The future beneficial use of the oil shale resources depends on the following facts:

- 1- Employing successfully suitable oil shale technologies that have already been developed to accommodate oil shale utilization economically and cleanly.
- 2- Oil shale is Jordan's most extensive domestic fossil-fuel source throughout the 21st century and beyond.
- 3- Jordan ranks third in the world of oil shale reserves. The identified reserves are more than 70 billion metric tones.

Jordan has signed five Memoranda of Understanding with international companies to undertake a viability studies for the use of well-known surface mining retorting technologies such as: Petrosix, Kiviter, Galoter and ATP, and with Shell to undertake a full comprehensive assessment employing the deep In-Situ Conversion Process. During the coming months, a pilot and a demonstration phase will be established to be followed by commercial production of shale oil and/or electricity substituting for imported crude oil and petroleum products. The main conclusion indicates that oil shale is seen as a viable option at today's oil prices so that oil shale utilization will result in significant savings in foreign exchange, improves Jordan's energy supply and security and create new jobs. The Government's position is now clear to what should be done to utilize this strategic energy resource in a wise way. So, comprehensive scientific research, feasibility studies, legislation and best practices codes as main parts of the national oil shale plan will be addressed. The expected outputs are to determine new process and improve feasibility of utilization and evaluate technologies needed to reach a commercial phase.

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