

**THE FAILURE OF THE CURRENT LEGAL AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IN THE  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF  
GROUNDWATER POLLUTION IN ISRAEL**

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**By**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In the last decade it has been discovered that considerable parts of the Israeli Aquifers, supplying over half of the nation's drinking water, are badly polluted. The current Israeli legal and administrative policy regarding groundwater pollution has not been able to sufficiently prevent the pollution of the aquifers, nor to efficiently treat existing groundwater pollution. In this paper, the current policy and the reasons for its failure are examined: The critical reading of the legislative history of the Israeli Water Law (1959), the main legislation treating water pollution to this day, demonstrates that the legislator's main target was the prevention and treatment of surface water pollution. The Water Law and the Water Regulations were not designed taking into consideration the significant differences between surface water pollution and groundwater pollution. As a result, the legal and administrative tools offered in the Water Law, do not reflect the needs evoked by groundwater pollution and therefore fail to sufficiently treat existing groundwater contamination. The flawed design of the policy has a direct affect on the enforcement of the Water Law, as well as its deterring effect, with regard to Israeli groundwater pollution.

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