

Water Law

Chapter 1: Definitions

Article 1

In this Law, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

Law: Water Law.

Ministry: The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

Minister: The Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

Ministerial Committee: A committee formed of the Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture as chairman, and the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, the Minister of Economy and Planning, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing as members to carry out the duties assigned thereto under this Law.

Authority: The Water and Electricity Regulatory Authority.

Board: Board of Directors of the Authority.

Governor: The Governor of the Authority.

Ministry's Regulations: The regulations necessary for the Ministry to perform its duties in accordance with this Law.

Authority's Regulations: The regulations necessary for the Authority to perform its duties in accordance with this Law.

Water Duty: The quantity of water determined in accordance with the needs of different crops.

Service Provision: The activities of water desalination, purification, and treatment; the activities of the principal purchaser falling within the Authority's jurisdiction; and the activity of water production for urban or industrial use that is carried out through pumping or purifying dam water or

well water; transporting such water and desalinated water to distribution points; distributing, strategically storing, trading, and retailing such water; and collecting, transporting, treating, and reusing wastewater for urban or industrial purposes. Such activities shall not include water bottling.

Principal Purchaser Activities Falling within the Authority’s Jurisdiction:

The activities of trading in desalinated, purified, and treated water, and sanitary and industrial wastewater, as well as offering projects of desalination, purification, and treatment plants.

Water Supply for Agricultural Purposes: The activity of pumping water from underground resources or dams, or pumping desalinated, purified, and treated water; distributing such water after being transported to distribution points; strategically storing such water; and collecting and transporting agricultural wastewater.

Water Resources Development: Any technical activity, whether traditional or non-traditional, that aims to sustain water resources and optimize the utilization thereof through water harvesting, increasing surface and groundwater reserves, protection, or conservation.

Urban Use: The use of water for domestic and commercial purposes, and for purposes related to public utilities, tree-planting, public parks, and the like.

Water Main Facilities: Facilities that are used in water production, harvesting, transportation, distribution, storage, or monitoring, whether owned by the public or private sector; this shall not include desalination, treatment, or water purification plants.

Desalinated Water: Seawater treated by desalination.

Purified Water: Underground or dam water the contaminants of which are removed and the salinity of which is reduced by a series of industrial and chemical processes through purification plants for urban, industrial, and agricultural use.

Treated Water: Sanitary, industrial, or agricultural wastewater that is treated

by biological, physical, industrial, or natural methods through removing its contaminants to make it safe for the environment or to be reused in urban, industrial, or agricultural purposes, based on the degree of treatment.

Water Tariff: A fee paid in return for service or quantity of water used.

Water Distribution: The delivery of water to beneficiaries or consumers from production or delivery sites, through networks, tanks, or any other suitable means; this shall not include the distribution of water for agricultural use.

Water Transportation: The transportation of water from production sites to main water distribution points.

Desalination: The removal of seawater salinity, wholly or partially, and its contaminants through a series of industrial processes conducted in desalination plants to provide fresh water for urban, industrial, and agricultural use.

Trading: The purchase of water from a licensee in bulk for the purpose of wholesaling; this shall not include selling such water to consumers.

Retail Sale of Water: The purchase of water from a licensee in bulk for the purpose of resale to consumers.

Resource Use License: A license issued by the Ministry in accordance with this Law and the Ministry's regulations for the utilization of water resources; this shall not include seawater.

Resource Development License: A license issued by the Ministry in accordance with this Law and the Ministry's regulations for the development of a water resource.

Service Provision License: A license issued by the Authority in accordance with this Law and the Authority's regulations for service provision.

Permit: A permit granted by the Ministry or the Authority for preparation activities, including developing plans and conducting studies prior to commencing any activity of resource use, resource development, or service

provision.

Exemption: A document issued by the Authority whereby the service provision license holder is exempted from one or more license terms or is granted a general authorization to provide a service, in accordance with the Authority's regulations.

Consumer: Any person who uses water for personal purposes.

Renewable Groundwater: Groundwater stored in aquifers that are recharged by an amount of water proportionate to the amount withdrawn within a period of one year.

Non-renewable Groundwater: Groundwater stored in aquifers that are not recharged or are insufficiently recharged.

Surface Water: Water that collects or runs above ground as well as seawater.

Wastewater: Used water that has changed in color, taste, smell, or level of hygienic or environmental safety.

Sewage: Wastewater resulting from urban use.

Aquifers: Porous and permeable layers of rock that are capable of storing and passing water.

Transboundary Waters: Surface or underground water that crosses international borders.

Unusable Water: Water the natural properties of which have changed in a manner that renders it inappropriate for its intended uses.

Strategic Water Storage: Storing water in tanks, dams, or appropriate aquifers for future utilization to ensure the stability of water supply for the public interest.

Safe Yield: The amount of water that can be withdrawn from a water resource without compromising its sustainability or quality.

Rights of Use: Rights granted to a holder of a resource use license.

Gray Water: Wastewater from a variety of uses, including bathing, hand washing, laundry, floor washing, and car washing, or from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, and swimming pools; this shall exclude toilet wastewater.

Contaminants: Any substance that causes a physical, chemical, or biological change or has a radioactive element that negatively affects the quality of water, directly or indirectly, and renders it unusable.

Wastewater Treatment: Converting sewage, gray, agricultural, or industrial water into water that is safe for health and the environment.

Biological Treatment: The treatment that aims to stimulate bacteria in wastewater to reduce the concentration of organic matter therein.

Secondary Treatment: The process of treating wastewater through sedimentation or disinfection, or any other process, following biological treatment.

Tertiary Treatment: The process of treating wastewater through filtration and purification, or any other process, following secondary treatment.

Restricted Irrigation: Irrigation of plants the yield of which does not come into contact with water.

Sludge: Precipitated solids resulting from sewage treatment plants that pose risk to health or the environment.

Bottled Water: Potable water properly bottled and sealed.

Bulk Water: Potable water in loosely sealed containers.

Injection: Pumping water into aquifers that meet the technical standards specified by the Ministry's regulations.

Water Harvesting: Collecting and storing rainwater and floodwater naturally or artificially through various methods depending on the purpose of collection and rates of precipitation, and reusing such water for urban, agricultural, or industrial use, or for recharging underground water.

Septic Tank: An underground tank designed in accordance with certain

specifications for holding wastewater.

Grease or Oil Traps: Units of a special design connected to the internal sewage system of commercial kitchens, restaurants, food factories, hotels, and car wash and lubrication stations, for the separation of fat, oil, and grease from liquid waste prior to being discharged to the public sewage system or to septic or collection tanks.

Special Zones: Residential and commercial complexes; industrial, technological, and economic cities; enterprises; free and military zones; nature reserves; and the like.

Chapter 2: Objectives and Scope of Application

Article 2

This Law aims to:

1. preserve, develop, and protect water resources; ensure their sustainability; and manage and regulate such resources, as well as rights related thereto and to their uses;
2. ensure the fair provision of safe, clean, reliable, high-quality water supplies to consumers at reasonable competitive prices, to meet their needs;
3. enhance the private sector's engagement in activities subject to this Law, and promote effective governance;
4. fulfill consumers' needs by providing access to clean and safe water that meets approved specifications in accordance with approved standards, plans, and programs; and
5. ensure the provision of water supplies to the agricultural sector to maintain its sustainability.

Article 3

The provisions of this Law shall, except for Zamzam water, apply to all water resources and water-related matters in the Kingdom, including special zones.

Chapter 3: Duties and Responsibilities

Article 4

1. The Ministry shall:
 - a) set and approve short, medium, and long term development plans and programs for water resources, supplies, uses, and treatment;
 - b) set and approve long-term plans for water in coordination with the Authority and relevant agencies;
 - c) set and approve plans and standards for strategic water storage and uses thereof;
 - d) set plans to encourage the participation of the private sector in water resources activities and projects, in accordance with approved national policies and strategies, and in coordination with relevant agencies;
 - e) set and approve plans for the management of emergencies and disasters that affect water resources, supplies, uses or treatment to protect water reserves and resources, and its distribution, in coordination with the Authority and relevant agencies; and
 - f) monitor water resources.
2. The Minister shall, in the event of an emergency or a natural or man-made disaster that leads to water scarcity or pollution, declare a water state of emergency and take extraordinary measures in coordination with the National Risk Unit.

Article 5

1. The Authority shall, with regard to service provision activities and in addition to duties stipulated in its Statute, undertake the following:
 - a) Approving the executive plans set by the licensed service providers in line with the long-term plan approved by the Ministry.
 - b) Taking necessary measures to provide additional water supplies for urban use in the event of anticipated shortages, as dictated by public interest.

- c) Regulating all contracts for the sale of treated wastewater, in accordance with the National Water Strategy.
 - d) Settling matters and complaints related to service provision activities raised by the relevant parties, especially consumers and licensees.
2. The Board may, in line with developments in the water sector, include or remove certain activities from the list of service provision activities that require a license. The Board may create or amend new types of service provision licenses in accordance with the Authority's regulations.

Article 6

1. The Ministry and Authority, each within its jurisdiction, shall provide private sector establishments with information necessary for making informed decisions and conducting feasibility studies on investment in the utilization and development of water resources, service provision, or any other water activities and projects.
2. All government agencies and private entities, research centers, and licensed individuals shall provide the Ministry and the Authority with the information, samples, and documents necessary for carrying out their duties as stipulated in this Law.

Chapter 4: Water Resources and Ownership

Article 7

Water resources shall include:

1. surface water; and
2. renewable and non-renewable groundwater.

Article 8

Without prejudice to rights prescribed by Sharia, water resources shall be deemed public property and shall be utilized in accordance with the provisions of this Law and other laws.

Article 9

1. A person may not use, develop, or prepare to develop any water resource, other than seawater, without obtaining the necessary license. The license fee and requirements shall be determined by the Ministerial Committee and the Ministry respectively.
2. The establishment of a desalination plant at a specific location on the sea shall require the prior approval of the Ministry.

Article 10

The Ministry may require the installation of meters to measure water flow from wells located in non-renewable water-bearing layers in order to monitor and regulate water consumption and rationalize its use in accordance with water duties; the Ministerial Committee may impose a fee if consumption exceeds the water duty.

Article 11

Licenses for use of well water shall not be transferred upon the transfer of ownership of the land where the well is located, except upon the Ministry's approval.

Chapter 5: Water Utilization

Article 12

Water utilization and allocation shall be prioritized in the following order:

1. Basic human needs.
2. Animal drinking needs.
3. Meeting agricultural, urban, and industrial demand as well as the minimum ecological balance, and other similar purposes. Prioritization of such purposes shall be determined pursuant to a decision by the Ministerial Committee based on the Ministry's recommendation.

Article 13

Government agencies and the private sector shall, upon setting national and development plans, coordinate with the Ministry regarding the water needs for such plans.

Article 14

Public and private agencies shall notify the Ministry of any changes in their water resources, and the Ministry shall take necessary action.

Article 15

Quantities of water shall be allocated for development purposes pursuant to a decision by the Ministerial Committee, upon the recommendation of the Ministry, based on the properties of the water-bearing layers and the annual flow rate of the valleys to ensure their sustainability as well as current and future potable water supplies, in coordination with relevant agencies.

Article 16

1. Water allocated for agricultural purposes shall be used in accordance with the Ministry's national strategies approved by the Minister.
2. The following actions or activities may be carried out or prepared for only after obtaining the necessary license, the fee and requirements of which shall be determined by the Ministerial Committee and the Ministry, respectively:
 - a) Water supply for agricultural purposes.
 - b) Principal purchaser activities falling within the Ministry's jurisdiction as determined by this Law.

Article 17

The relevant agencies may not issue licenses or approvals for any facility the establishment of which would obstruct the utilization of surface water, without obtaining the approval of the Ministry.

Article 18

The Minister may, for reasons relating to water shortage or scarcity, water or environmental security, or public health, suspend any resource use license or reduce the permitted quantities specified therein, except for resources excluded by the Ministerial Committee. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Authority within a period determined by the Ministry's regulations prior to taking any action in this regard if a service provision licensed by the Authority is established on the resource.

Article 19

The Ministry shall take the necessary procedures and measures to prevent the use of water resources that have become unusable, including revoking or suspending the issuance of resource use licenses.

Article 20

1. Ministry inspectors shall, in accordance with its jurisdiction, have the right to access sites and facilities, including special zones to ensure the legality of water access and use, the safety of water resources, and the compliance with the terms of the license and provisions of the Law, in coordination with the competent authorities.
2. If Ministry inspectors are prevented from accessing sites or facilities to carry out their duties, the Ministry may coordinate with the relevant agencies to take measures necessary to grant them access.

Article 21

1. Wastewater may not be used for any purposes under any circumstances.
2. Treated wastewater may not be used for any purpose or activity, or be discharged, except in accordance with standards and usage priorities approved by the Ministry.
3. Sanitary or industrial wastewater may not be transported or collected, or disposed of or discharged using the sewage network, tanks, or any other

means, except after obtaining a service provision license.

Article 22

1. Ministry inspectors may, in coordination with the relevant government agencies, access farms that use treated water for monitoring and inspection in order to verify compliance with the terms of the license, and for taking measurements and samples to ensure that treated water and the products and plants irrigated therewith are free from contaminants and do not pose a risk to health or the environment.
2. If Ministry inspectors are prevented from accessing farms to carry out their duties, the Ministry may coordinate with the relevant agencies to take measures necessary to grant them access.

Article 23

Tertiary treated wastewater shall not be used for drinking, household purposes, or in food industries. It may be used for other purposes after ensuring that it is suitable, safe, and contaminant-free, in accordance with the rules and conditions specified in the Ministry's regulations.

Article 24

An irrigation system shall, in order to protect water resources from pollution, include an integrated drainage system to collect and dispose of excess irrigation water in a safe manner, as specified in the Ministry's regulations.

Article 25

Secondary treated water may be used for restricted irrigation, and in industry, mining, construction, and other similar activities, after ensuring that it is safe and contaminant-free, in accordance with the rules and conditions specified in the Ministry's regulations.

Article 26

All government and private agencies shall coordinate with a licensed service provider prior to connecting wastewater to sewage networks, or prior to collecting wastewater by tanks and discharging it into a treatment plant in the absence of a sewage network, as specified in the Authority's regulations.

Article 27

Sludge shall be used in accordance with rules and standards issued by the Ministry for the protection of public health and the environment.

Article 28

1. Issuing a license to establish a facility, granting final approvals and clearances, or supplying water to a facility, shall require:
 - a) a suitable wastewater disposal system that can be connected to collection and treatment systems during planning and execution; and
 - b) a plant for treatment of urban or industrial wastewater that is licensed by the Authority and that conforms with the technical standards and requirements specified by the Authority, in the absence of a sewage network.
2. Authority Regulations shall determine government or private facilities that are governed by paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) of this Article.

Article 29

If sewage networks are available, the owner shall connect to such networks; otherwise, he shall establish his own wastewater treatment plant, in accordance with the Authority's regulations.

Article 30

Rainwater, groundwater, agricultural drain water, and the like, or water originating from construction sites shall not be discharged into the public sewage network without obtaining the approval of the licensed service

provider, in accordance with the license requirements set by the Authority.

Article 31

The owners of oil factories, car wash stations, restaurants, kitchens, and the like shall, after obtaining the approval of the licensed service provider, install and maintain grease or oil traps in accordance with the license specifications as determined by the Authority.

Chapter 6: Water Tariffs

Article 32

1. The Ministerial Committee shall propose water tariffs for water resources and submit the same to the Council of Ministers for approval, subject to the following:
 - a) Rationalization of water use and conservation and sustainability of water resources.
 - b) Average needs of water for individuals, enterprises, and economic activities.
 - c) Requirements of national development policies and strategies.
 - d) Costs of water production, transportation, distribution, and storage, and the protection of water resources.
 - e) Economic conditions of low-income individuals.
 - f) Water resources used and their quality.
 - g) Actual rate of water consumption.
 - h) Nature of the economic activity for which water is used, and methods of obtaining water and its services.
2. The Ministerial Committee shall conduct a periodic review of the water tariffs referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article at least once every five years.

Article 33

The Authority shall approve the tariffs for service provision activities, and shall take the following into consideration when conducting periodic reviews of such tariffs:

1. Rationalization of water use, and conservation and sustainability of water resources.
2. Incentives for enhancing technical and economic efficiency and quality of services to meet the essential needs of the community and economic activities.
2. Requirements of national development policies and strategies.
3. Enabling the licensed service provider to operate efficiently to recoup full costs and achieve a reasonable return on the invested capital.
4. Clarity and ease of implementation.
5. Economic conditions of low-income individuals.
6. Nature of the economic activity for which water is used, and methods of obtaining water and its services.

Chapter 7: Transfer of Water Use Rights

Article 34

1. The Ministry shall, prior to transferring the resource use license from one user to another, ensure that no application for different use of such resource that is higher in priority is filed and that the new use is in line with the strategy and safe yield of such resource, in accordance with the Ministry's regulations.
2. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Authority within a period determined by the Ministry's regulations, prior to transferring the resource use license from one user to another if a licensed service provision activity is established on the resource.

Article 35

The Ministry or the Authority shall, as applicable, impose a fee on licenses and applications for transfer of use rights.

Article 36

1. Bulk water may not be imported or exported except pursuant to a decision by the Council of Ministers.
2. The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, determine the water-consuming agricultural and animal products and their derivatives that may not be exported.

Chapter 8: Rationalization

Article 37

The Ministry, or its designee, shall regulate and manage the rationalization of water use. All licensees, consumers, and beneficiaries shall comply with rationalization policies, and shall use water rationalization tools and equipment.

Article 38

All government and private sectors shall use water-conserving sanitary ware and plumbing materials that conform to approved technical regulations and standards, and recycle gray water, in accordance with the Ministry's regulations.

Article 39

Government agencies and licensed service providers shall advocate "water use rationalization" in their awareness-raising, educational, and marketing programs, in accordance with the Ministry's regulations.

Article 40

Water-conserving systems shall be used in agricultural and urban irrigation in accordance with the Ministry's regulations.

Article 41

Water users shall:

- a) rationalize the use of water, avoid wasting or overusing water, and use water-conserving tools, equipment, and systems that conform with approved Saudi standards as recommended by the Ministry;
- b) adhere to licensed uses and quantities, and enable relevant agencies to conduct necessary measurement and monitoring;
- c) preserve water resources; and
- d) pay applicable tariffs, fines, or fees.

Article 42

The Ministry and the Authority, as applicable, shall, in accordance with this Law, ensure that all water uses are effectively monitored and measured, whether directly or through the licensees.

Chapter 9: Strategic Water Storage

Article 43

The Ministry shall periodically estimate the quantities of water available in water resources, and measure the volume of withdrawal therefrom, the stored water, its quality, depletion rate, and treatment; relevant agencies shall, each within its jurisdiction, cooperate with the Ministry in carrying out its duties.

Article 44

The Ministry shall approve strategic water storage and strategic tanks in all regions of the Kingdom, provided that the anticipated needs of consumers in

cases of emergency are taken into account when constructing such tanks.

Article 45

The Ministry or any licensee may carry out water injection if it is safe for health and the environment, and for the technology used, in accordance with the Ministry's regulations.

Article 46

The Ministerial Committee may, based on a recommendation by the Ministry, prohibit the use of one or more water resources in specific areas for purposes of preservation of water reserves and strategic storage, and may lift such prohibition, and compensate the holders of the resource use licenses of such resources, as specified in the Ministry's regulations, without prejudice to the investors' rights in any project. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Authority within a period determined by the Ministry's regulations prior to taking any action if a licensed service provision activity is established on the resource.

Chapter 10: Water Services

Article 47

1. The Authority shall issue, renew, and amend licenses, exemptions, and permits required for engaging in or preparing to engage in any service provision activity.
2. A service provision activity may not be carried out without obtaining the necessary license, except for activities exempted from licensing or from certain license conditions as specified in the Authority's regulations.

Article 48

A licensed service provider may not relinquish his license or dispose of the licensed assets, whether by transfer, sale, mortgage, or any other act, prior to

obtaining a written permission from the Authority. The Authority's regulations shall specify the relevant conditions, provided they do not undermine the licensed activity.

Article 49

A licensed service provider must obtain the Authority's approval prior to any merger or acquisition of majority shares, or assets of other entities, and must notify the Authority of any preliminary agreement reached in this regard.

Article 50

If a licensed service provider is unable to carry out his licensed activity for any reason, the Authority shall, in coordination with the Ministry, make the necessary arrangements to ensure the provision of service is not interrupted, as determined by the Authority's regulations.

Article 51

1. Authority inspectors may access sites and facilities licensed by the Authority to verify their compliance with this Law.
2. If Authority inspectors are prevented or obstructed from accessing sites and facilities licensed by the Authority to carry out their duties to verify compliance with this Law, the Authority may coordinate with the relevant agencies to take measures necessary to grant them access.

Chapter 11: Water Infrastructure and Leak Detection

Article 52

1. The Ministry, or its designee, shall, in the absence of a licensee in the areas outside the jurisdiction of municipalities, sub-municipalities, and special zones, create infrastructures, networks, and highly efficient systems for water harvesting to ensure optimum use thereof.
2. The water infrastructure required for service provision activities

established by the public sector shall be deemed state property, and the Authority may issue licenses for its use, in accordance with this Law and the Authority's regulations.

Article 53

All matters relating to water infrastructures owned by the public or private sector or through a partnership between them that are used in service provision activities, whether by sale or otherwise, shall be subject to the supervision of the Authority, in accordance with this Law and the Authority's regulations.

Article 54

If a holder of a service provision license fails to carry out his licensed activity for any reason and seeks to liquidate his business or if a liquidation procedure is initiated pursuant to the Bankruptcy Law, he must coordinate with the Authority to transfer, at a fair value approved by the Authority, the ownership of his assets to the Ministry or to another licensee selected in accordance with the Authority's regulations.

Article 55

1. A licensee shall, except for special zones, devise plans for water infrastructure; such plans shall be approved by the Ministry.
2. Government and private agencies shall coordinate with the Ministry to avoid any act that would undermine, damage, or contaminate the water infrastructure.

Article 56

1. No work or digging may be carried out within the limits of the infrastructures or within the desalination, purification, or treatment plants, or their surroundings as determined by the Ministry's regulations and the Authority's regulations, except after coordination with the licensee or

- owners thereof, and after taking necessary measures for their protection.
2. No work or digging may be carried out within the limits of wells and dams or their surroundings, except after coordination with the Ministry.

Article 57

Runoff outside the limits of public and private buildings, and leakage from reservoirs, internal networks, or tanks, shall be prohibited, subject to the Authority's regulations.

Chapter 12: Digging and Mining

Article 58

1. The following activities may not be engaged in except upon obtaining the necessary license, the fee and requirements of which shall be determined by the Ministerial Committee and the Ministry, respectively:
 - a) Mining for water.
 - b) Well drilling, use, maintenance, and plugging.
 - c) Engaging in well drilling.
2. Any person to whom the property of a well is transferred shall apply for a license with the Ministry within the period specified by the Ministry's regulations.

Article 59

A license for well drilling, mining for water, or mining for other purposes issued by an entity other than the Ministry shall not grant the licensee the right to use the discovered water resource. Such right shall be subject to the terms of use stipulated in this Law and the Ministry's Regulations.

Chapter 13: Protection of Water Quality

Article 60

1. The Ministry shall monitor compliance with the quality standards of water used for agricultural purposes.
2. The Authority shall monitor the quality of water used by a licensed service provider during production, transfer, distribution, and storage, and shall ensure compliance with the standards and specifications approved by the Ministry.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply to bottled water.

Article 61

The Ministry shall issue and update standards, specifications, and requirements for protecting water resources and the environment from pollution.

Chapter 14: Essential Measures for Protection of Water Resources

Article 62

Any action that causes harm to water resources or their infrastructures shall be prohibited, subject to the Ministry's regulations.

Article 63

The Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing shall, each within its jurisdiction, take the necessary measures to prevent the leakage into the water-bearing layers of hydrocarbon and toxic materials emanating from oil and gas wells, refineries, distribution plants, factories, petrol stations, and maintenance centers of vehicles and machinery. In the event of any leakage, they shall notify the Ministry and address its impact on health and the

environment.

Article 64

A licensee shall maintain a safe distance, as set by the Authority's regulations, between wastewater collection networks and water resources, including their transportation and distribution systems and tanks, and shall take all necessary measures to avoid leakage of wastewater into water resources or their transportation and distribution systems or tanks.

Chapter 15: Violations and Penalties

Article 65

1. The Ministry and Authority shall, each within its jurisdiction, detect and investigate violations of this Law as well as the Ministry's regulations and Authority's regulations, and shall take necessary statutory measures.
2. The Ministry and Authority may, each within its jurisdiction, assign specialized companies or agencies to carry out monitoring and detection of violations, pursuant to rules and standards determined by the Ministry's regulations and Authority's regulations.

Article 66

1. The Minister and the Board, as applicable, shall approve the rules for detecting, recording, and investigating the violations of this Law.
2. The Minister and the Governor, as applicable, shall assign to certain employees of the Ministry or the Authority, as applicable, or others the task of recording and investigating violations of this Law. Such assignees shall have the capacity of preliminary investigation officers with powers to inspect, record violations, and access violator's books and records, and obtain copies of the relevant supporting documents.
3. The Ministry and Authority may, when necessary, seek the assistance of the competent authorities in detecting and recording violations or in

implementing decisions issued against violators.

Article 67

Without prejudice to other laws, the following acts shall be deemed violations of this Law:

1. Engaging in any activity or work subject to this Law without a license.
2. Providing the Ministry or the Authority with false or misleading information relating to the activities or works subject to this Law.
3. The licensee's failure to provide the information or data required by the Ministry or the Authority, in the manner and method specified thereby according to their respective jurisdiction.
4. Withholding information necessary for resource use activities or their development or service provision activities.
5. The licensee's failure to properly engage in the activities or works licensed under this Law.
6. The licensee's failure to obtain the necessary approvals in accordance with this Law, the Ministry's regulations, Authority's regulations, license terms, or exemptions under this Law.
7. Failing to comply with decisions and instructions issued by the Ministry or Authority in implementation of the provisions of this Law.
8. Improperly using any water resource, or using it for other than the designated purposes.
9. Unlawfully exploiting emergencies or disasters with regard to water resources, whether directly or indirectly.
10. Breaching fair competition with regard to activities or works subject to this Law.
11. Engaging in any activity that results in water scarcity or contamination.
12. Inflicting damage to or improperly using water infrastructures, or

desalination, purification, and treatment plants, or their surroundings, or licensee's equipment or devices.

13. Failing to comply with the specifications and standards approved by the Ministry or Authority with regard to public health, safety, security, or the environment.
14. Unlawfully connecting to the water or sewage network.
15. Preventing or obstructing employees entrusted with the monitoring and inspection of violations from carrying out their duties.
16. Aiding others in committing violations of this Law, Ministry's regulations, Authority's regulations, or license terms.
17. Violating any of the provisions of this Law, Ministry's regulations, Authority's regulations, license terms, or exemptions.

Article 68

1. Without prejudice to any harsher penalty stipulated in any other law, a person who violates any of the provisions of this Law, Ministry's regulations, Authority's regulations, license terms, or exemptions issued under this Law, shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
 - a) Suspension of the activity or work, wholly or partially, for a period not exceeding one year.
 - b) Revocation of the license or the exemption.
 - c) A fine not exceeding 20 million riyals for each violation.
2. The competent committee referred to in Article 70 of this Law may:
 - a) impose a fine for each day the violation continues after the violator is notified of the competent committee's decision; the fine shall be calculated from the date specified in the committee's decision;
 - b) double the fine in case the violation is repeated; the violation shall be deemed repeated if committed within three years from the date the first violation is committed; and
 - c) include in the penalty decision a provision for the publication of its

summary at the expense of the violator in a local newspaper published at his area of residence, if available; otherwise, in a newspaper published in the nearest area, or through any other appropriate medium, depending on the type, gravity, and impact of the violation, provided that said decision is published after it becomes final.

3. The decision imposing the penalty shall include a provision compelling the violator to rectify the violation and refund amounts he obtained from the violation.
4. Penalties shall be determined according to the magnitude of each violation, taking into account the nature of the violation and its gravity in each case, as well as aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

Article 69

A person who attempts to commit any violation of this Law or provides cover up for any violator shall be subject to half the penalty prescribed for the violation; in case of repetition, he shall be punished by the same penalty prescribed for the violation.

Chapter 16: Violation Review Committee

Article 70

1. A committee or more formed pursuant to a decision by the Minister shall review and decide on any violation of this Law that falls under the Ministry's jurisdiction as well as on any violation of the Ministry's regulations; impose the penalties prescribed in this Law; and determine compensations. Such committee shall be formed for a term of three renewable years, and shall comprise five members, including two specialists in Sharia or law and one expert in water resources, and shall be chaired by a specialist in Sharia or law. Committee decisions shall be passed by majority opinion and shall be reasoned. Committee decisions imposing a fine of more than five million riyals or revoking a license, or

- both, shall require the approval of the Minister. Committee rules and procedures shall be determined pursuant to a decision by the Minister.
2. A committee or more formed pursuant to a decision by the chairman of the Board shall review and decide on any violation of this Law that falls under the Authority's jurisdiction as well as on any violation of the Authority's regulations and impose the penalties prescribed in this Law. Such committee shall be formed for a term of three renewable years, and shall comprise five members, including two specialists in Sharia or law and one expert in water services, and shall be chaired by a specialist in Sharia or law. Committee decisions shall be passed by majority opinion and shall be reasoned and approved by the Governor. Committee rules and procedures shall be determined pursuant to a decision by the Board.
 3. Decisions of the committees stipulated in this Article may be appealed before the administrative court within 60 days from the date of notification.
 4. The Ministry's regulations and Authority's regulations, as applicable, shall determine the jurisdiction of each committee with regard to reviewing the violations stipulated in Article 67 of this Law.

Article 71

1. In exigent circumstances, the Ministry or the Authority, as applicable, may take one or more of the following actions against any person who violates, or attempts to violate, any of the provisions of this Law, Ministry's regulations, Authority's regulations, license terms, or exemption conditions:
 - a) Order him to cease the violation.
 - b) Order him to rectify the violation and take the measures necessary to remedy the impact of the violation. If the violator fails to comply with said order, the Ministry or the Authority, as applicable, shall rectify the violation and remedy its impact at the violator's expense.
 - c) Suspend his business activity, wholly or partially, for a period not exceeding six months.

- d) Take the necessary measures to manage the water resource or service provision activity, as applicable, for a period not exceeding six months, renewable once, to ensure continued operation of said resource or activity, in accordance with the rules and procedures determined by the Ministry or the Authority, as applicable.
2. The committee shall issue a decision to this effect within a period not exceeding 20 working days from the date of referral of the violation. If the committee fails to issue a decision within said period, or if the decision is not accepted by the concerned person, an appeal may be filed with the administrative court, in accordance with applicable statutory procedures.

Article 72

1. A violator shall be liable for any damage incurred by a licensee's facility or by a third party, including the costs of repair of the damage and compensation for any revenues lost as a result of such damage.
2. The Minister or the Board, as applicable, shall issue the rules for determining the cost of repair and the amount of compensation for any revenues lost by the facility.

Chapter 17: Transitional and Concluding Provisions

Article 73

A person who reports unlicensed wells in his property within two years from the date this Law enters into force shall be exempted from the fine prescribed for unlicensed wells.

Article 74

The Ministry may delegate some of the tasks assigned thereto under this Law to public or private entities.

Article 75

This Law shall repeal the following Laws and Regulation:

1. Law of Water and Sewage Corporations, issued by Royal Decree No. (M/22), dated 23/6/1391H, and its Regulations.
2. Law of Preservation of Water Resources, issued by Royal Decree No. (M/34), dated 24/8/1400H, and its Regulations.
3. Law of Treated Sewage Water and its Reuse, issued by Royal Decree No. (M/6), dated 13/2/1421H, and its Implementing Regulations.

Article 76

1. The Minister shall issue the Ministry's regulations within 90 days from the date this Law is published in the Official Gazette. The regulations shall enter into force on the date this Law enters into force.
2. The Board shall issue the Authority's regulations within 90 days from the date this Law is published in the Official Gazette. The regulations shall enter into force on the date this Law enters into force.
3. The Authority shall issue the necessary regulations to carry out its regulatory duties under this Law, that shall include:
 - a) technical, environmental, operational, and procedural rules and codes;
 - b) performance standards that must be met by a licensed service provider;
 - c) rules governing the relations between licensed service providers and consumers;
 - d) defining, classifying, and updating service provision activities and their uses; and
 - e) rules for licenses, exemptions, and permits, including fee calculation methods.

Article 77

This Law shall enter into force 90 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.