

**Original Document:** [ASEZA Approval Letters on ESIA.pdf](#)

**Title: Correspondence from the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and the Ministry of Environment (MOENV) Regarding the Review and Conditional Approval of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and National Water Carrier Project.**

Including Technical Observations, Interagency Consultation Summaries, and Marine Environmental Compliance Requirements.

**Page 1:** ASEZA Letter Granting Conditional Environmental Approval for the ESIA of Project Components Within the Aqaba Special Economic Zone

**Page 2:** Submission of Draft ESIA Report and Disclosure Observations by Engicon to ASEZA

**Page 3:** Approval Letter from the Ministry of Environment Confirming Conditional Acceptance of the ESIA for Project Components Outside Aqaba Special Economic Zone

**Page 4 and 5:** ASEZA Technical Review Comments on the Draft ESIA for the Aqaba-Amman Project (Required Legal Revisions, Missing Impact Studies, and Marine Environmental Data Updates).

**Page 6:** Internal Memo Summarizing ESIA Consultations, Document Flow, and Interagency Approvals (From ASEZA's to the Commissioner for Environmental Affairs)

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**Page 1:**

Date: 23/3/2023

Al-Mustashar Engineering Company

Subject: Aqaba Project – Amman Desalination and Water Carrier

Greetings,

Reference is made to your letter No. DW2013/284/2022 dated 30/1/2022 and the attached draft of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project, and to the consultation meeting held on Tuesday, 22/2/2022 to discuss the study outcomes, as well as the site visit session held to review the marine environment component in Aqaba on 16/3/2022.

Please be informed that there is no objection to granting environmental approval for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study for the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project, for the part of the project that lies within the borders of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone, provided that the detailed studies mentioned in the report (Risk Assessment Study, Emergency Plan, Traffic Impact Study) are submitted upon final design completion of the project, and with the commitment to the mitigation measures included in the study. Any changes to the project components within the Zone must be re-evaluated and approved by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority.

Please accept our highest regards,

Eng. Nayef Ahmad Bakheet  
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

**Page 2:**

Engicon – Engineering Company

Date: 30/01/2022

Number: DW2013/284/2022

To His Excellency Chairman of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA),  
Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Project: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Aqaba-Amman  
Desalination and Water Carrier Project

Subject: Draft Report of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study

Greetings,

With reference to your letter No. 5147/4/7 dated 01/07/2021 approving the scoping report and defining the project area to include all stations; and regarding the draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study that we sent for your kind review and feedback; we have reviewed your observations and notes, and based on the information available, the project is considered one of the national strategic and vital projects.

Please be informed that the consultant has noted, based on the results of the "public disclosure" of the study, that coordination with the Jordanian Armed Forces is required to issue the necessary military approvals for the stations located within their jurisdiction. This must be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and in accordance with the requirements of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the ASEZA Environment Commission, and in coordination with the Ministry of Environment. The consultant suggests that this coordination be done during February.

We appreciate your kind cooperation.

Best regards,  
Project Director  
Eng. Hazem Zureikat

Local Study Team Leader  
Eng. Haitham Jawad

**Attachments:**

- Four hard copies of the draft ESIA report.
- Two electronic copies of the draft ESIA report.
- Two links containing the study report and its annexes (link validity is limited to one week only from the above date).

**Page 3: same as (MoEnv Approval Letters on ESIA) document**

[MoEnv Approval Letters on ESIA.pdf](#)

Al-Mustashar Engineering Company

Greetings,

With reference to your letter No. DW2013/283/2022 dated 30/01/2022 and the attached report of the Environmental Impact Assessment study for the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project.

We inform you that the report of the study for the areas located outside the borders of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone has been approved, on the condition of commitment to the mitigation and protective procedures mentioned in the study, and that any amendment to the study in the event of any change to the route of the conveyor or its components in the areas referred to above—which fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry—shall be subject to the Ministry's approval. This is based on the recommendation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee.

With utmost respect,

Minister of Environment

Naif Zreikat

Dr. Mohammad Al-Khashashneh

Secretary General (Stamped)

**Page 4 and 5:**

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority Document

Date: 9/3/2022

To: Al-Mustashar Engineering Company

Subject: Aqaba Project – Amman Desalination and Water Carrier

Greetings,

With reference to your letter No. DW2013/284/2022 dated 30/01/2022 and the attached draft of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project, and following the consultation session that was held on Tuesday, 22/02/2022 to discuss the outcomes of the study, and the technical meeting held to address the marine environment section in Aqaba on 16/03/2022:

We inform you that the study has been reviewed by the Technical Environment Committee of the Authority, and based on the committee meeting held on 22/03/2022, and upon reviewing the report, it was found that there are many observations that must be incorporated into the study, including:

1. Regarding the legal framework: All relevant laws, regulations, and guidelines must be reviewed. For example, the Jordanian Framework Law on Waste Management No. 16 of 2020, and the Jordanian Technical Standard for Ambient Air Quality No. 1140/2006.
2. Regarding environmental permitting: If the project is to be granted environmental approval, then a revision is required to what was stated on page (62), which says that the environmental permitting for components of the project within the Aqaba Special Economic Zone falls under ASEZA's jurisdiction, while components outside the Zone fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment.
3. The following studies must be conducted:
  - Traffic impact assessment study for the project.
  - Risk assessment study for the project.
  - Emergency response plan for the project.

(page5)

4. Update the marine environmental data across all parts of the study, as some of the data is outdated—for example, as noted on page (page 166).
5. Identify the source of the data used in the mathematical model for seawater discharge.
6. Specify the environmental reference standard used and approved for the model to determine the dilution distance for dispersion in the sea (pg.20, see Attachment No. 2).
7. Determine the expected quantity and quality of brine from the wastewater treatment plant included in the project, and how it will be disposed of.
8. Specify the treatment mechanism for certain substances such as non-biodegradable iron particles mixed with the return seawater before it is discharged back into the sea.

We kindly ask you to take the above remarks into consideration when preparing the final draft of the study, and to set an appropriate time and place for holding a face-to-face consultation session to discuss the marine environment component. This will enable the necessary procedures to be taken for granting environmental approval for the project in accordance with the Environmental Protection System in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone No. 21 of 2001 and its amendments.

With utmost respect,

Eng. Nayef Ahmed Bakheet  
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners  
Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority

(Stamped and signed)

**Page 6:**

Internal Memo

To:

H.E. Commissioner of Environmental Affairs and Natural Resources

From:

Director of the Environment Directorate

Date:

21/03/2022

Subject:

Aqaba – Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project

Greetings,

Referring to the Aqaba-Amman Desalination and Water Carrier Project, kindly be informed of the following:

1. The first consultation session for the project was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, with the participation of all relevant entities, on 1/3/2022, during which the project was presented and the terms of reference for the environmental study were outlined.
2. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the project was prepared and circulated to both the Ministry of Environment and ASEZA for feedback.
3. The second consultation session for the full project was held remotely via virtual communication on 22/02/2022, during which the study results were presented to the relevant parties.
4. Our observations on the study were sent, and a request was made to hold a face-to-face session focused on the portion of the project within the Aqaba region.
5. The second in-person consultation session specific to Aqaba was held on 16/03/2022.

Attached is the cover letter addressed to Al-Mustashar Engineering Company granting environmental approval for the portion of the project located within the Aqaba region, while the letter regarding the portion of the project outside the borders of the ASEZ was sent by the Ministry of Environment, as per the attached letter.

A summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment study for the project is also attached.

With utmost respect,

Director of the Environment Directorate

Eng. Tareq Al-Maayta

(Signed and stamped)