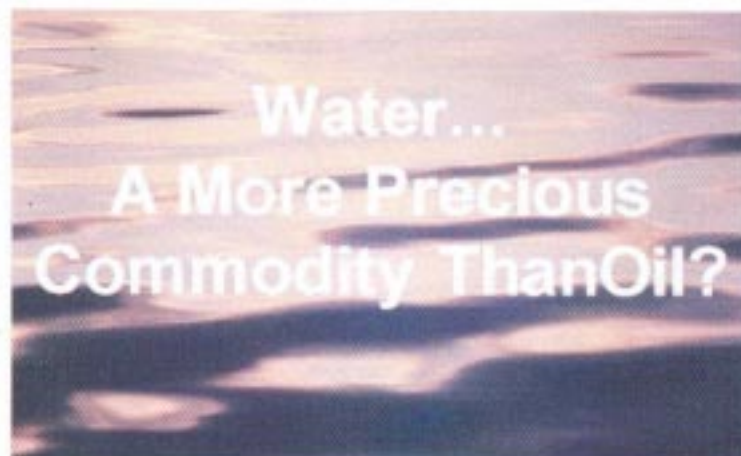


The Riyadh population is used to having an abundant supply of water. This is very apparent when you consider in 1994 the water consumption in Riyadh was 1.3 million cubic metres per day. It is at least this amount today, and with a population of over three million, this indicates a 400 litre per person per day consumption.

The quality of the water is extremely good and meets the World Health Organization (WHO) preferred standard of quality. I drink this water and the quality can be as good as a lot of the bottled water supplies. The water in my house is filtered to remove the iron content which is picked up from the pipes within the house.

The population of Riyadh consumes water for both domestic and irrigation purposes which largely accounts for the relatively high consumption. You may have noticed recently that there is an abundance of water tankers around the town. These tankers supplement the supplies to consumers. This may occur when storage facilities are insufficient to stock enough water for the days when the municipal supply is turned off; and also when houses are outside the reaches of the municipal network. The distribution network was reported in the past to have leakage of between 9% and 67% which is believed to have contributed to the rising ground water levels in Riyadh.



The water supply to Riyadh is approximately 66% desalinated seawater and 34% treated brackish well water; the latter could be quickly expanded to meet the short term demands. In the long term, well water is a limited resource and mainly comes from non-renewable aquifers.

Jeddah, in comparison to Riyadh has a considerable shortage of water, the quality however meets WHO standards for potable water. The supply is supplemented by road water tankers. The quality of this water is often poor and the better quality water is transported a considerable distance to Jeddah.

Al Khobar and Damman receive a constant supply from within the network supply areas. The water is a blend of well water and desalinated seawater; the quality of which generally does not meet WHO standards for potable water.

With the rapidly increasing population and the high consumption, more strict water conservation measures will be required in the near future to enable the supply to continue to meet the demand.

For further information on Water or Waste Water, Contact David Langdown at Getco 4023722 ext.500.

KSA BBG'S HOLD INTERREGIONAL MEETING

The third Saudi Arabian BBG's Inter-Regional meeting for 1998 was held in Jeddah during September and as usual, the meeting was aimed at promoting internal relations between the 3 regional groups.

Richard Northern and Roy James represented Riyadh. Jon Carter represented the Eastern Province. John Graham, Chris Scordelis, Dawood Taylor, Colin Hughes (Ex-RGBB), Nick Mackey, Innes Rae (Consul General) and Wayne Evans represented Jeddah.

The main item on the agenda was the proposed joint BBG web-site (linked to the DTI via the Embassy), which is being co-ordinated by Nick Mackey of Jeddah BBG. A final draft of the web pages has now been developed and a new target date was agreed to go live on December 19th. (This is a separate web-site to that of

the RGGB's own dedicated web-site, which is already live.)

Reciprocal arrangements, such as the regular exchange of membership lists, newsletters, privilege cards, social events and representation at the Intergulf Conference, were also on the agenda.

Thanks are expressed to Innes Rae for providing the facilities for the meeting and for his kind hospitality after the meeting.

It is planned to hold the next meeting, which will be hosted by Riyadh, during February '99.



ROY JAMES
*Internal Relations Representative
RGGB Executive Committee*