

## WHERE TO WITH JORDANIAN OIL SHALES

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*In this paper, different ways for developing indigenous oil shale resources and their important role in reducing the dependence of Jordan on imported oil are assessed. Also, the Government's plan and strategy with respect to premature or short sighted and loose energy policy is discussed. Oil shale is the major indigenous fossil fuel in Jordan, and it is not utilised at present. During the next few years, a commercial oil shale complex could be developed in the country to produce shale oil and/or electricity substituting for imported crude oil and petroleum products. The future beneficial use of the vast oil shale deposits depends not only on the development of suitable process economics but also on the availability of suitable environmental controls. Thus, oil shale's future will be a mixture of promise and risk. Oil shale can still be considered Jordan's most extensive domestic fossil-fuel source well throughout the 21st century and beyond. However, the Government's position is not clear enough with regard to what should be done in order to utilise the oil shale resources in a wise way. So, comprehensive scientific research, feasibility studies, legislation and best practices codes as main parts of a national energy plane should be addressed and developed in order to decide about the most suitable technology for Jordan.*