

# MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES Mineral Status and Future Opportunity

# KAOLIN

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## Kaolin

## 1. Introduction

Kaolin is white, soft, plastic clay mainly composed of the fine grained platy mineral kaolinite; a white hydrous aluminum silicate,  $Al_2Si_2O_5(OH)_4$ , containing 23.5% alumina, 46.5% silica, and 14% water. It is soft, with a moderate refractive index of 1.56, and occurs as extremely small hexagonal-shaped crystals of micron and submicron size.

It is used in the manufacturing of white-ware ceramics, and the main use now is in the filling and coating of paper. It is also used as filler in paints, rubber, plastics and many other productions. Whiteness, fineness and controllable particle size are well known criteria of kaolin.

Kaolin deposits are classified as primary or secondary in origin. Primary (Residual) kaolin is formed by in situ alteration of granite or granitic gneiss, while secondary kaolin may have been formed by transportation and deposition of kaolinite that was formed somewhere else.

## 2. Kaolin Applications and Specifications

2002).	
Industry	Specification
Paper grade: 1. Filler grade	Kaolinite >90%, low $Fe_2O_3$ and $TiO_2$ (<1%), low abrasive quartz (1-2%), brightness of 80+%, particle size of 50-70% <2 $\mu$ m and Brookfield viscosity <4000cpe.
2. Coating grade:	Kaolinite 90-100%, low $Fe_2O_3$ (0.5-1.8%) and TiO2 (0.4-1.6%), no abrasive quartz, brightness of 85+%.particle size of 80-100% <2 $\mu$ m and Brookfield viscosity <7000cpe.
Paint and plastic: Paint grade	Average particle size 0.2 µm or hegman grind 6+, GE brightness 90-92, pH 6-8, oil absorption 41-46 (ASTM D281),and free moisture
Ceramic grade:	75-85% kaolinite, bone china and porcelain require a fired brightness of 83-91%, 1180°C and <0.9%Fe2O3. Viscosity control and strength of clay bodies are important. Other critical tests include modulus of rupture, casting rate, PCE and
White ware	shrinkage. 50% kaolin, 20% ball clay.
Stoneware Porcelain (tableware, cookware)	60% kaolin, 10% ball clay.20% kaolin, 30% ball clay.
Electrical porcelain (insulators in power generation and transmission)	25%kaolin, 25% ball clay.
Earth ware (colored pottery, base material for sanitary ware, tiles)	20-30% kaolin, 20-30% ball clay
Vitreous chinaware (sanitary ware, tableware)	25%kaolin.

 Table (1): Kaolin Specifications for industrial uses (Industrial Minerals Handy Book IV, 2002).

Refractory grade:	Refractory clays are required to withstand temperature of $1500^{\circ}$ C (PCE19). Other tests include re-heat, hot load test, panel spalling test, apparent porosity, bulk density, and cold crushing strength. Refractory clays may be classified based on $Al_2O_3$ content low alkali and iron are preferred.
Fiberglass grade	Used as a source of $Al_2O_3$ and $SiO_2$ . Typical content is 37% $Al_2O_3$ and 44% $SiO_2$ with max. 1% Fe2O3, 2% Na <sub>2</sub> O, and 1%H <sub>2</sub> O.
Rubber grade	Kaolin is classified by particle size as hard or soft, with hard clays having a slightly smaller particle size which yields a stiffer uncured compound resulting in a higher tensile strength and abrasion resistance when cured. The pH required is 4.5-5 since fillers with an excessively acidic pH acceterate the curing of rubber formulation resulting in premature curing in the mold.
Cosmetic grade:	(Light kaolin BP) maximum 2 ppm arsenic, 20ppm heavy metals, 350 ppm chlorides; 15 wt.% LOI; pH 7.5±0.5.

#### 3. Locations and Geological Setting

The kaolin deposits are almost exhausted in Mahis and Ghour Kabid areas (Central Jordan). Other kaolin deposits are exposed in four main locations in south Jordan; Batn el-Ghoul (Jabal al Harad), Al-Mudawwara, Jabal Umm Sahm and Dubaydib (Figure 1, Figure 2 & Table 2). All areas have been exploited to a small extent. Mudawwara kaolin is still not exploited.

The three deposits are of Ordovician Age (Llanvirn-Llndovery). Locally, both Batn el-Ghoul and the Al-Mudawwara deposits belong to the Al-Batra Mudstone member. The thickness of this member ranges between 15 and 60 m at Batn el-Ghoul to more than 80 m at Al-Mudawwara area. It is exposed in a wide area near the surface and the overburden is thin.

On the other hand, Jabal Umm Sahm and Dubaydib deposit belongs to Al-Hiswa Sandstone Formation, with a thickness of about 35 m. This formation is exposed in the area with an overburden thickness ranging between 0 - 25 m. Attachment maps show the location and geology of kaolin deposits in Jordan.

#### **3.1. Batn El-Ghoul Deposit**

This area is located about 70 km southeast of Ma'an city about 280 km south of Amman city on both sides of Ma'an - Mudawwara road. The elevation of the upper surface of the deposit ranges between 690 -730 meter above sea level.

#### 3.2. Al-Mudawwara Deposit

It is located about 120km SE of Ma'an city, about 10km east of Al-Mudawwara police station. The elevation of the upper surface of the deposit ranges between 720 and 750m above sea level.

#### 3.3. Jabal Umm Sahm and Dubaydib Deposit

It is located about 45Km east of Al-Quweira town, south to Al-Hiswa railway station, and can be reached by Wadi Rum-Al Disi tourist road. The elevation of the upper surface of the deposit ranges between 850 - 950m above sea level.

The three area deposits are easily accessible by metalled roads and tracks. Metalled roads connect the three areas with the neighboring countries and Aqaba harbour. In addition to the electrical network, the communication system and the railway line that serve Phosphate Mine Company also pass close to the three deposits.

The area of deposits is characterized by an arid climate, from April to October the climate is hot, dry summer with an average temperature of 35° C; and from November to March is cold, dry with an average temperature of 15° C. The rainfalls occur rarely during the winter and the average rainfalls ranges from 50 to 100mm annually.



Figure (1): Jordanian kaolin deposits location.

Area		Area		linates ine Belt)	Name of	Authors
		( <b>Km</b> <sup>2</sup> )	East North		sheet	
	Eastern area	25	240000- 245000	0886000- 0891000		Barkat & Hammory/
Batn el- Ghoul	Western area	10	236000- 239000	0891000- 0896000		1994
		37.5	240000- 246550	0880500- 0886000	Jabal al Harad	Abu Salah & Ghannam/ 2001
	First area		239000- 243000	0897000- 0900000		Madanat, Ghannam &
	Second area		233000- 238000	0898000- 0902000		Al-Rousan/ 2005
	Part A	3	214000- 215000	0884000- 0887000		The Jordanian Co. for
Hiswa	Part B	20	216000- 220000	0885000- 0890000	Jabal Umm Sahm	Mining and Processing of
	Part C	27	215000- 218000	0893000- 0902000		Kaolin & Feldspar/ 1997
Al- Mudaw wara		150	257000- 267000	0850000- 0865000	Al- Mudawwar a	Kailani & Abu Salah/1997
Jabal Umm Sahm	First area	17.6	220000- 225000	0874000- 0862500	Jabal Umm Sahm & Bir As Saladih	Abu Salah & Ali Ghannam & Nidal Mehyar/ 2000
Dubaydi b	Second area	14.9	222300- 225000	0862500- 0869000	Dubaydib & Jabal Ladghayn	Abu Salah & Ali Ghannam & Nidal Mehyar/ 2000

 Table (2): Natural Resources Authority studied areas.

## 4. Estimated Reserves of the Jordanian Kaolin

### 4.1. Areas with Kaolin Potential

According to Natural Resources Authority, estimated kaolin reserves in various areas in Jordan are as follows in Table (3).

Table (3): Geological reserves of kaolin de	leposits.
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Location		areas	Reserve	(Mt)	Thickness (m)
Batn el-Ghoul	Barkat &	Eastern area	894		
	Hammory/1994	Western area	406		
		Surface hills	9.5	2200	7.5-47
	AbuSalah& Ghannam884/2001				
Al-Mudawwara				9700	22-102
Al-Hiswa				54	3-20
Jabal Umm Sahm & Dubaydib				1090	2-4

## 5. Kaolin Properties

## **5.1.** Chemical Properties

Following table (4) shows the results of the chemical analysis for kaolin samples in different studied areas.

	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %		SiO <sub>2</sub> %	/o	Fe <sub>2</sub> O	3 %
Area	max.	min.	max.	min.	max	min.
Batn el-Ghoul	25.37	14.01	68.32	47.79	8.37	4.05
Al-Mudawwara	27.54	13.36	70.20	41.87	10.54	4.54
Al-Hiswa	29.27	12.94	78.88	49.04	9.09	1.15
Jabal Umm Sahm & Dubaydib	24.70	17.00	61.97	49.04	11.04	3.50

 Table (4): Major oxides contents of the kaolin in studied areas.

## **5.2.** Mineralogical Properties

Kaolin deposits are mainly composed of kaolin and quartz minerals and other minerals as minor content (Table 5).

	0,	<b>_</b>							
Sample	No.	Q	К	Μ	F	G	Р	Al	Н
Al-Mudaww	vara	**	***	*	-	*	-	-	-
Batn El Gho	oul	***	***	*	*	*	*		-
Jabal Umm	Sahm	***	***+	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dubaydib		***	***+	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q = Quartz. P = Pyrite. H=Hematite.	K = Kaolinite Al = Alunite.	. M = Mic *** = Mi		= Feldsp = Mino		G = Gyp * = Trac			

 Table (5): Mineralogy of kaolin deposits.

### 6. Processing of Jordanian Kaolin

In order to compete with the regional and worldwide markets, Jordanian kaolin should be upgraded. Following some research attempts performed on the Jordanian kaolin for upgrading purposes, the Jordanian kaolin could be upgraded and be used in some industries as in the following:

• Using the Jordanian clays as a raw material in Ceramics industry was proved successfully by the study of the clay deposits in Jabal Umm Sahm by Al-Momani (2000). Al-Momani used the clay (Light grey-A1, dark grey-A2 and varied coloured-A3) in tiles and sanitary ware manufacturing. The results showed that the physical, chemical, mineralogical, technical and industrial characteristics of Jabal

Umm Sahm clay deposit could compete with the standard specifications (Table 6). In addition, he demonstrated that Umm Sahm kaolin could be used as filler and extender in Paints industry.

**Table (6):** Comparison between the typical chemical composition and the technical properties of clay materials for ceramics tiles (Al-Momani, 2000).

Typical chemical composit properties (%) of clay mate from different countries		Chemical composition and technological properties (%) of Al-Hiswa clay deposits-Jordan (Kaolin A1, A2, A3)					
	Chemical (	Composition (wt. %	)				
SiO <sub>2</sub>	44.90-70		52.32-58.73				
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	19.61-32.0		19.25				
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.5-8.6		1.80				
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0-1.4		0.83				
CaO	0-1.0		0.06				
MgO	0.05-1.96		0.15				
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.05-1.98		1.39				
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0-1.0		0.08				
SO <sub>3</sub>	0.12-0.80		0.31				
L.O.I	7.5-13.60		9.36				
	Technologic	al Properties (wt. %	<b>(0</b> )				
		Kaolin A1	Kaolin A2	Kaolin A3			
Plastic Limit (wt. %)	16-26	23.51	23.56	18.09			
Liquid Limit (wt. %)	23-42	40.32	41.48	30.05			
Plastic Index (wt. %)	9-26	16.81	17.92	11.96			
Brightness	21.60-84.43	19.02-74.46					
Water absorption							
□ 1050°C	17.87	16.6-23.3					
□ 1250°C	4±3		7.4-8.8				
Firing Shrinkage							
□ 1050°C	4.4		0.8-2.18				
□ 1250°C	11.4		8.3-14.4				

• Clay deposits in Batn el Ghoul studied by Bayook (1992). The studies concluded that the deposits are suitable for ceramics industry and as a source for Aluminum (Table 7).

	SiO <sub>2 %</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> %	TiO <sub>2</sub> %	Fe <sub>2</sub> O 3 %	MgO %	CaO %	Na <sub>2</sub> O %	K <sub>2</sub> O %	L.O. I %
Batn el Ghoul clay	47.62	24.89	0.72	6.11	1.01	0.49	0.84	2.35	15.68
Size fraction <2µm	45.75	32.29	0.89	4.06	1.00	0.07	0.17	2.28	13.15
Ball clay	54.10	30.08	1.20	1.00	0.30	0.20	0.01	2.20	10.20
China clay	48.00	36.30	0.10	1.00	0.30	0.10	0.10	1.80	12.30

Table (7): Chemical composition of Batn el Ghoul clay deposits (whole rock sample and less than 2µm

- Awawdeh (1991) evaluated Batn el Ghoul clay and concluded that it can be used as bricks, tiles, drainage pipes and as can filler in rubber and plastics. Many industrial experiments done on the clay such as color measurements, oil absorption, Plasticity, shrinkage, water absorption.
- In 1995 Tahat and Zawahreh from mineral processing and upgrading department in NRA done many upgrading experiments on Jabal Umm Sahm & Dubaydib kaolin. The results were encouraging to be used in different industries (Table 8).
- Batn el Goul clays were successfully tested and used in manufacturing stoneware pipes and tiles by Geoindustria (2000).
- Mudawwara clays were used in producing light building materials, which only mentioned briefly in the Czech report, Geoindustria (2000).

Trench No.	Elements%	Before Upgrading (%)	After Upgrading (%)
	$Al_2O_3$	24.0	31.8
Ms1	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	5.0	1.91
	SiO <sub>2</sub>	49.0	48.61
	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	26.0	31.9
Ms2	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	6.0	1.61
	SiO <sub>2</sub>	52.0	45.61

Table (8): Jabal Umm Sahm & Dubaydib kaolin upgrading results (Tahat & Zawahreh, 1995).

### 7. Investment Opportunities

#### 7.1. Cement Industry

Cement industry is one of the most important players in the Jordanian mining sector. Thus, it depends solely on the domestic natural minerals as raw materials such as kaolin. There is a rapid growth in local cement market due to the recent booming in the building construction industry and one of the promising markets for Jordanian cement is rebuilding Iraq.

From exports and import quantities of different types of cement (Table 9), it can be seen that the country export quantities more than imports which is limited in white cement and nil for Portland cement in 2005. In year 2006 nearly the export nil and quantities were exported this is due to the high boom in building sector and some problems in the Jordan Cement Factory which exported the needed quantities from Egypt (Table 9).

		2005		2006	
Commodity	Country	Export Quantity	Import Quantity	Export Quantity	Import Quantity
	Free Zone	205		236	
White Cement	Syria	39,177		21,914	
white Cement	Saudi Arabia	268			
	Egypt		10,471		8,392
	Free Zone	347		23	
Portland Cement,	Palestinian N.A.	29,653			
Other Than White	Iraq	118,856			
Cement	Syria	55,971			
	Saudi Arabia				32
	Egypt				19,546
Aluminous Cement	U.K.		4		6
Other Hydraulic	Saudi Arabia		118		48
Cements	Italy		6		

 Table (9): Exported and imported quantities (tons) of different types of cement (Statistic Department, 2006).

Two currently cement factory are in process the third and may be two more will start production in few years later. This will increase future demands on kaolin. Potential areas which have huge reserves of kaolin are Batn el-Ghoul and Jabal Umm Sahm and Dubaydib areas which exploitation still limited in it and Mudawwara area which not exploit yet.

### 7.2. Ceramics (Sanitary Ware and Tiles)

Jordan is one of the less well-known ceramics manufacturing bases in the Middle East. However, the kaolin producers have enhanced their position on the global stage due to a steadily expanding domestic market and a program of product improvement. Kaolin produced from two areas: Mahis area for ceramics applications and Batn el-Ghoul for floor tiles. Jordan Ceramic Industries Co. (JCC) was the first ceramic company registered in 1966. It Ceramic Industries Co. (JCC) was the first ceramic company registered in 1966. It the following principal ceramics factories have also been set up: Arab Ceramic, Al Mass Company for Ceramic, International Ceramic Co. (stopped using local kaolin) and Al Moosely Shop. Still consumption of local kaolin from these companies still limited. Many other companies exist but all of its products are imported. It can be noticed from the tables the big difference between exported and imported quantities. Hundred thousands tons of imported tiles indicate that still there is a good opportunity to invest in this sector, to cover Jordan and neighbour countries market needs. So, more studies on the kaolin processing and developing this industry are recommended.

The renewal and the development of the ceramic industry have brought about a great demand for training the workforce employed in the sector. Technicians should continuously taking part in training programs which provide courses in ceramic tile production processing and machinery operation, so they can keep up with the constant changes and innovations taking place in the ceramic industry.

#### 7.3. Artistic Ceramic Ware

It is worth mentioning that in Jordan today there are many shops producing artistic ware such as simple vases, statues, murals and oriental dishes, many of which are decorated with holy pictures. There is also a growing demand for these items by the increasing amount of tourists that are flocking to the country.

Virtually all of these artistic ware suppliers are small-scale concerns and as such depend heavily on the country's large factories to assist with the processing of their raw materials and supply of glazes and other decorative materials.

To date this system has been working well, but the increasing prevalence of cut-price ornamental ware from China is just starting to have an effect on the viability of some of these smallest craft shops.

#### 7.4. Tableware and Kitchenware

This industry nearly does not exist. It is restricted to what manufactured with artistic ware. Table (24) shows that exported quantities are very limited and as other ceramics products most of it imported.

#### **7.5. Stoneware (Pipes and Tiles)**

The usability phase of Geoindustria technological work (2000) resulted in verification of the suitability of Batn el Ghoul deposit sequence as ceramic clay for production of the stoneware assortment, i.e. stoneware pipes, and stoneware floor tiles namely. Two qualitative clay types are present in Batn el Ghoul, with low Fe2O3 content (white

claystone) and high Fe2O3 content (mottled claystone). The white claystone can be easily separated by means of hand sorting of bulks and fragments of the mined claystone mottled layer. Because of the light colored and non-vitreous body after burning, white clays are classified as ceramic clay suitable for alumina white ware production. The red colored portion of the claystone mottled layer remains in quality of the raw material suitable for the stoneware production.

Bulk sample used composed of 75% of Batn el Goul clay and 25% of Czech fire-clay grog RAKO. The blends for production of stoneware pipes and floor tiles manufacturing were prepared. The tubes were pressed, dried and fired in the industrial units of Calfrig in Borovny; the tiles were pressed, dried and fired in KERMAST Co. factory in Prunerov.

The technological parameters of the processes and the qualitative parameters of the test products are summarized in tables (10 & 11).

Depending on the technological and geological data Geoindustria proposed to establish ceramic plant. The production of various stoneware pipe products was assessed as the most preferable assortment in Jordan. Considering the European relations the annual production capacity on 14,000 tonne is applied as minimal for the feasible plant establishment, and the most common pipe diameters (100-300mm) were chosen for the proposal of factory production line. Considering the presumed plant capacity the well explored geological reserves in volume of about 500,000 tonne will be sufficient to cover the capacity of 14,000 tonne/annal of pipe products for the period of 30 years.

	Pilot plant test of clay from Batn el Ghoul	clay	
Product	Elbow 60°, diameter 125 mm		
Material	Stoneware		
Composition	Batn el Ghoul clay sample, crushed below 1 mm 75%		
	Czech fire-clay grog RAKO grain size 0-1.25	25%	
	mm		
Procedure	- Pressing from plastic material, working moisture 14		
	- Drying in tunnel drier wit max. temperature 85°C for 96 hours, shrinkage after drying		
	3.7%.		
	- Firing of non-glazed tube (elbow) in tunnel kiln with max. temperature 1230°C for		
	53 hours, shrinkage after firing 5.6%.		
Surface finish	Non-glazed, raw surface, cream color		
Properties	Weight	9.5 kg	
	Water absorption	3.7%	
	Modulus of rupture	32 MPa	
	Resistance against acids and bases 0.4-13.4 pH		
	Length of live	Min. 100 years	
	Joint of tubes	Polyurethane or rubber	
Applicability	Municipal sewage network, sewage collectors, drainage of airports and highways		
Ecological respect	Natural material, unobjectionable, environment-friendly both in production and		
_	prospective liquidation as well, 100% recyclable		

Table (	(10): (	Jualitative	parameters of	of stoneware	pipes (	(GIS	Geoindustry,	2000).
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Pilot plant test of clay from Batn el Ghoul clay			
Product	Elbow 60°, diameter 125 mm		
Material	Stoneware		
Composition	Batn el Ghoul clay sample, crushed below 1 mm	75%	
	Czech fire-clay grog RAKO grain size 0-1.25 mm	25%	

Procedure	- Pressing from plastic material, working moisture 14.7%.			
	- Drying in tunnel drier wit max. temperature 85°C for 96 hours, shrinkage after drying			
	3.7%.			
	- Firing of non-glazed tube (elbow) in tunnel kiln with max	. temperature 1230°C for 53		
	hours, shrinkage after firing 5.6%.			
Surface finish	Non-glazed, raw surface, cream color			
Properties	Weight	9.5 kg		
	Water absorption	3.7%		
	Modulus of rupture	32 MPa		
	Resistance against acids and bases 0.4-13.4 pH			
	Length of live	Min. 100 years		
	Joint of tubes	Polyurethane or rubber		
Applicability	Municipal sewage network, sewage collectors, drainage of airports and highways			
Ecological	Natural material, unobjectionable, environment-friendly both in production and			
respect	prospective liquidation as well, 100% recyclable			

Table (11): Qualitative	parameters of stoneware tiles	(GIS Geoindustry, 2000).
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	Pilot plant test of clay from Batn el Ghoul c	lay		
Product	Tile 180x180x31 mm			
Material	Stoneware	Stoneware		
Composition	Batn el Ghoul clay sample, crushed below 1 mm	75%		
	Czech fire-clay grog RAKO grain size 0-1.25 mm	25%		
Procedure	- Pressing from granules, working moisture 6.5%.			
	- Drying on free-air for 168 hours, shrinkage after dryi	ng 0.3%.		
	- Firing of tiles in gas shuttle kiln with max. tem	pperature 1180°C for 16 hours,		
	shrinkage after firing 1.2%.			
Surface finish	- unglazed raw surface, cream color			
	- glazed on green tile			
Properties	Weight	1.6 kg		
	Water absorption	38.9%		
	Modulus of rupture	28 MPa		
	Compression strength	35 Mpa		
	Resistance against acids and bases 0.4-13.4 pH			
	Length of live	Min. 100 years		
	Joint of tubes	Polyurethane or rubber		
Applicability	Out-door and in-door pavements, corridors and galleries, terraces, swimming-pool			
	kerbs etc.			
Ecological	Natural material, unobjectionable, environment-friendly both in production and			
respect	prospective liquidation as well, 100% recyclable			

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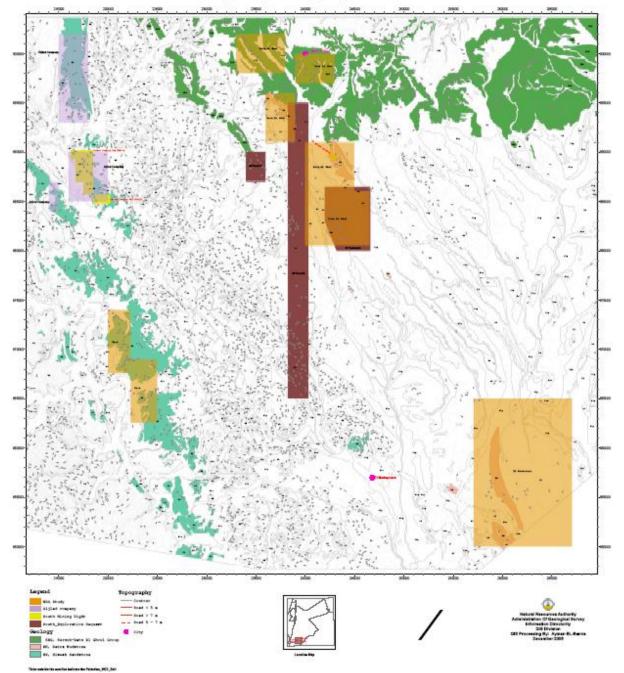
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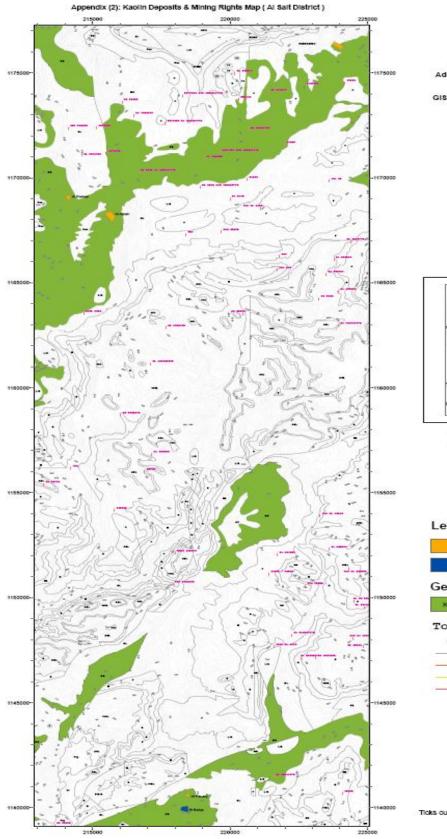
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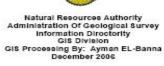
## Appendices

Appendix (1): Kaolin deposits and mining rights map (South Jordan).Appendix (2): Kaolin deposits and mining rights map (Al-Salt District).



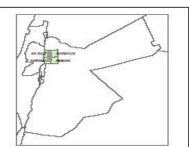
Appendix (1): Kaolin Deposits & Mining Rights Map ( South Jordan )





Scale Map 1:50000





Location Area

Legend



KS Kurnob Sandstone

Topography



Ticks outside the neatline indicate the Palestine\_1923\_Belt