

University: Abdelhafid Boussouf

Faculty: Process Engineering

Research Title:

**The Role of the Algérienne Des Eaux (ADE) in Water Management and
Treatment in Algeria**

Prepared by Students:

Kerkab Asma

Boulkroun Malak

Zemcha Oumaima

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1. Introduction

Water is the foundation of life, and without it, living beings cannot survive. It is used for drinking, agriculture,

industry, and cleaning, which makes it an essential element that is indispensable in various aspects of life.

With the continuous increase in population, the expansion of cities, and the rise in pollution levels, water

resources are facing tremendous pressure, which requires additional efforts to preserve them and ensure

their quality.

In Algeria, the issue of providing clean and safe water is considered a national priority. This is where the

important role of the Algérienne des Eaux (ADE) appears. It is the institution in charge of managing water at

the national level, including production, treatment, and distribution.

This presentation aims to shed light on the role of the ADE in the water sector, with a focus on the procedures adopted in water treatment to make it suitable for human consumption and to ensure the safety

and health of citizens.

2. Overview of the ADE Institution

Definition of the Institution:

The Algérienne des Eaux (ADE) is the body responsible for the management of water resources in Algeria.

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The institution oversees all operations related to the production, treatment, and distribution of water to meet

the needs of citizens and to preserve environmental health.

Foundation and Development:

The institution was established as part of the Algerian state's effort to provide safe drinking water and

essential services. It has undergone significant developments to keep pace with population growth and

environmental challenges. Over time, ADE has adopted modern technologies and advanced methods to

improve its operations and solidify its role in the water sector.

Main Missions and Services:

- Water Production: Responsible for extracting water from natural sources and conducting preliminary treatment.

- Water Treatment: Implementing a variety of processes and treatments to improve water quality and make it safe for use.

- Water Distribution: Ensuring the continuous and safe delivery of treated water to all regions and various sectors.

- Maintenance and Monitoring: Monitoring the condition of water infrastructure and maintaining stations and networks to ensure operational efficiency.

- Awareness and Training: Raising awareness about the importance of water conservation and rational

usage, in addition to training technical staff on the latest technologies and procedures.

The ADE provides an integrated framework for managing the water cycle in a way that supports the

sustainability of water resources and environmental protection, making it a fundamental pillar in achieving

sustainable development in the country.

3. The Importance of Water Treatment

Water treatment is a vital process that contributes significantly to ensuring the quality and safety of the water

we consume and use daily. Its importance lies in several essential aspects:

1. Protection of Public Health:

Treating water eliminates harmful bacteria, viruses, and pollutants that can cause serious diseases.

Clean

water is essential for drinking, cooking, and hygiene.

2. Environmental Protection:

By removing pollutants from water before discharging it into nature, we contribute to protecting aquatic

ecosystems, reducing pollution, and preserving biodiversity.

3. Ensuring Resource Sustainability:

Treating water, especially wastewater, allows its reuse in agriculture and industry, which helps reduce

pressure on natural resources and ensures their availability for future generations.

4. Support for Economic Activities:

Many industries depend on treated water in their processes. Thus, water treatment supports economic

growth and productivity, especially in agriculture, manufacturing, and energy.

5. Compliance with Health Standards:

Water treatment ensures that water meets national and international health and environmental standards,

which protects society and strengthens the country's credibility.

4. Stages of Water Treatment

Water treatment goes through several essential and complementary stages to ensure that the water becomes

suitable for human consumption and safe for the environment. These stages include:

1. Pre-treatment:

This is the first stage where large solid waste such as leaves, plastic, and sand is removed. This is done

using mechanical screens and sedimentation basins.

2. Physical Treatment:

In this stage, suspended particles are separated from water through processes like sedimentation and

flotation, helping to reduce the load on subsequent stages.

3. Chemical Treatment:

Specific chemical substances are added, such as chlorine for disinfection, lime for pH adjustment, and

aluminum salts for coagulation and flocculation. These processes help in aggregating and removing impurities.

4. Biological Treatment:

This stage relies on beneficial bacteria to break down organic pollutants in the water, especially in the case of

wastewater, using biological basins or activated sludge systems.

5. Final Filtration:

The water passes through filters composed of sand, gravel, or activated carbon to remove any remaining

impurities, suspended particles, and undesirable odors.

6. Disinfection:

The final and crucial stage where harmful microorganisms are eliminated using chlorine, ozone, or ultraviolet

rays, ensuring the water is safe for consumption.

Each of these stages is essential to ensure that water meets health and safety standards before reaching

consumers.

5. Modern Techniques in Treatment

With the advancement of technology, several modern and effective techniques have emerged in the field of

water treatment. These techniques contribute to improving the quality of water, reducing treatment costs, and

enhancing environmental sustainability. Among the most important of these techniques:

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1. Reverse Osmosis:

A filtration technique that uses semi-permeable membranes to remove dissolved salts and impurities from

water, especially used in seawater desalination and brackish water treatment.

2. Ultraviolet Treatment:

A disinfection method that uses UV light to destroy bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms without using

chemicals, which helps preserve the natural properties of water.

3. Activated Carbon Filtration:

This technique is used to absorb unpleasant odors, colors, and organic chemicals. Activated carbon has a

large surface area that enables it to retain a wide range of pollutants.

4. SCADA Systems (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition):

These are advanced systems that allow for the remote monitoring and control of treatment and distribution

stations in real-time, contributing to increased efficiency and early detection of problems.

5. Advanced Biological Treatment Techniques:

Such as Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) technology, which combines biological treatment and membrane

filtration to achieve high efficiency in treating wastewater.

The use of these technologies reflects the efforts of the ADE to modernize its facilities and improve the

quality of services provided to citizens.

6. Challenges Facing the ADE

Despite the efforts made by the Algérienne des Eaux (ADE) to improve water services, the institution faces

several challenges that affect its ability to achieve its objectives effectively. Among the most prominent of

these challenges:

1. Scarcity of Water Resources:

Algeria suffers from a lack of water resources due to its semi-arid climate and limited rainfall, which makes it

necessary to rationalize consumption and search for alternative sources.

2. Environmental Pollution:

The pollution of rivers, dams, and underground water by industrial and household waste increases the

difficulty of treatment and raises the cost of operations.

3. Aging Infrastructure:

Many water networks and facilities are old and in need of renovation and modernization, which causes

frequent breakdowns and water loss through leaks.

4. High Operating Costs:

The cost of extracting, treating, and distributing water is high, especially with the use of modern technologies

and the increasing demand for electricity and maintenance.

5. Lack of Citizen Awareness:

Some citizens do not cooperate in preserving water or reporting leaks, which leads to unnecessary waste and complicates the institution's tasks.

6. Climate Change:

Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns directly affect water availability and increase pressure on the infrastructure and water management systems.

Facing these challenges requires strategic planning, technical innovation, and active community participation to ensure the continuity of water services sustainably.

7. Conclusion

Water is a vital resource that must be managed rationally and preserved for current and future generations.

The Algérienne des Eaux (ADE) plays a pivotal role in providing potable water and ensuring its quality through treatment and efficient distribution networks.

In light of the environmental and technical challenges facing the water sector, it is necessary to intensify efforts to:

- Expand and modernize water networks.
- Promote rational use of water among citizens.
- Invest in advanced and sustainable treatment technologies.
- Develop human resources and encourage scientific research.

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The sustainability of water services requires the collaboration of all stakeholders: institutions, citizens, and

experts, to build a water policy that guarantees access to clean and safe water for all.