



**Ain Shams University**  
Faculty of Women for Art,  
Science and Education,  
Physics Department

# **Evaluation of Natural Radioactivity and Heavy Metals Along the Bahr El Baqar Canal, Egypt**

**Thesis submitted for the partial fulfillment of  
master degree in physics (Nuclear physics)**

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**(Physics – Nuclear Physics)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The present study aims mainly to investigate physical and chemical analyses for water samples and the radioactivity concentrations for water and sediment samples collected from Bahr El-Baqar Drain.

The present study divided into two parts according to the studied areas the first part is Qalubeya drain and the second part is Bilbis drain.

### Part (A): Qalubeya drain

The present study deals with the physical and chemical characteristics of the water samples collected from Qalubeya drain. Determination of physical and chemical parameters (Water temperatures, pH, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity) were carried out to identify the nature and quality of the water of Qalubeya drain. Concentration of radioactivity levels and heavy metals was measured in water of Qalubeya drain. Gamma-radiation measurements were performed using high resolution (HPGe<sub>1</sub>) detector. Total uranium concentration was measured by a laser fluorimeter, while the concentration of heavy metals was determined by Atomic Absorption Spectrometry. The concentrations in the drain water were found to be below the detection limit. The specific activities of <sup>238</sup>U, <sup>226</sup>Ra series, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>40</sup>K in water samples using (HP-Ge<sub>1</sub>) representing the different collection sites were in the range of 0.78 to 3.5, 0.1 to 2.7, 0.1 to 2.1 and

0.4 to 1,2 Bq/L for  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  series,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  series and  $^{40}\text{K}$ , respectively. Total uranium concentration was measured by a laser fluorimeter. The specific activity concentration was detected in all samples. It ranges from 0.20 ppm (2.53 Bq/L) to 0.46 ppm (5.57 Bq/L). where The lowest value was found in samples collected from Safet El Kanter while the highest value was found in samples collected from Qaha. Correlation analysis between radionuclide isotopes and heavy metal, cations, anions was determined, using the Pearson correlation coefficients. The specific activities of  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  series,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  series,  $^{40}\text{K}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  in sediment samples using (HP-Ge<sub>2</sub>) have a mean of values  $47.86\pm 8.273$ ,  $13.709\pm 0.785$ ,  $14.108\pm 1.433$ ,  $291.59\pm 3.78$  and  $1.304\pm 0.174$  Bq/kg respectively. The dose rate in of the sediment samples of the Qalubeya drain has an average of 38.25nGy/h. The annual effective dose and hazard index have averages of 0.05 mSv and 0.15, respectively. The  $\text{Ra}_{\text{eq}}$  has the average of 56.34Bq/kg. It is noticed that all the hazards values are considered very low compared to the recommended limits applied in UNSCEAR 2000. Except in Qaha location.

## Part (B): Bilbis Drain

The present study deals with the physical and chemical characteristics of the water samples collected from Bilbis Drain. Determinations of physical and chemical parameters (water temperatures, pH, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity) were carried out to identify the nature and quality of the water of Bilbis drain. Concentration of radioactivity levels and heavy metals was measured in water of Bilbis drain. Gamma-radiation measurements were performed using high resolution (HPGe<sub>1</sub>) detector. Uranium Content in water samples collected from Bilbis - Bahr El-Baqar drain was carried out using alpha spectrometry. While the concentration of heavy metals was determined by Atomic Absorption Spectrometry. the concentrations in the drain water were found to be below the detection limit . The specific activities of <sup>238</sup>U, <sup>226</sup>Ra series, <sup>232</sup>Th and <sup>40</sup>K in water samples using(HP-Ge<sub>1</sub>) representing the different collection sites were in the range of 0.82 to 2.4, 0.7 to 1.4 , 0.96 to 2.1 and 0.6 to 1,2Bq/L respectively. For uranium analysis the results show that the uranium level obtained is in the normal range of the natural radioactivity. At the beginning of the Bilbis drain the uranium concentration was about 3 ppm decreasing down to about 0.8 ppm at Safet El kanter area. Correlation analysis between radionuclide isotopes and heavy metal, cations, anions was determined, using the Pearson correlation coefficients. The specific activities of <sup>238</sup>U, <sup>226</sup>Ra series, <sup>232</sup>Th series, <sup>40</sup>K and <sup>137</sup>Cs in sediment samples using (HP-Ge<sub>2</sub>) have a mean of 36.92±8.31, 13.58±0.88, 14.92±1.47, 280.77±4.14 and 0.947±0.117 Bq/kg respectively, the dose rate in the sediment samples of the Bilbis drain has an average of 34.59nGy/h.

The annual effective dose and hazard index have averages of 0.04 mSv and 0.15, respectively. The  $Ra_{eq}$  has the average of 56.55Bq/kg. It is noticed that all the hazards values are considered very low compared to the recommended limits applied in UNSCEAR 2000. Except in El khsous location .

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# **Contents**

**Acknowledgement**

**Abstract**

**Contents .....i**

**List of figures .....v**

**List of tables .....ix**

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction and Literature Review**

|  | <b><u>Page</u></b> |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>1.1. Bahr El-Baqar drain.....</b>                             | <b>1</b>           |
| <b>1.1.1 Objective of Study.....</b>                             | <b>5</b>           |
| <b>1.2. Natural radioactivity.....</b>                           | <b>5</b>           |
| <b>1.2.1. Sources of Natural Background Radiation.....</b>       | <b>6</b>           |
| <b>1.3. Naturally occurring radiation and radioactivity.....</b> | <b>7</b>           |
| <b>1.3.1. Cosmic radiation.....</b>                              | <b>9</b>           |
| <b>1.3.2. Primordial radionuclides.....</b>                      | <b>10</b>          |
| <b>1.3.2.1. Naturally radioactive series.....</b>                | <b>10</b>          |
| <b>1.3.2.2. Singly occurring primordial radionuclides.....</b>   | <b>18</b>          |
| <b>1.3.3. Man-made sources of radiation.....</b>                 | <b>20</b>          |
| <b>1.3.3.1. Medical radiation sources.....</b>                   | <b>20</b>          |
| <b>1.3.3.2. Nuclear weapons tests.....</b>                       | <b>20</b>          |
| <b>1.3.3.3. Nuclear power.....</b>                               | <b>21</b>          |
| <b>1.3.3.4. Consumer products.....</b>                           | <b>21</b>          |

---



---

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1.4. Cesium-137.....       | 23 |
| 1.5 Literature Review..... | 26 |

**CHAPTER 2**  
**Aquatic Systems and Heavy Metals**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 2.1 General.....  | 49 |
| 2.2. Behavior of Radioactive Substances in Different..... |    |
| Ecological Systems.....                                   | 50 |
| 2.2.1. Behavior in the Air.....                           | 52 |
| 2.2. 2. Behavior in Aquatic Systems .....                 | 54 |
| 2.2.3. Behavior in Sediment.....                          | 57 |
| 2.2.4. Behavior in Soil .....                             | 59 |
| 2.3. Heavy metals.....                                    | 62 |
| 2.3.1. Heavy Metal Concentrations.....                    | 62 |
| 2.3.1.1. Lead.....  | 63 |
| 2.3.1.2 Mercury.....                                      | 63 |
| 2.3.1.3 . Cadmium.....                                    | 64 |
| 2.3.1.4. Chromium.....                                    | 64 |
| 2.3.1.5. Iron.....  | 65 |
| 2.3.1.6. Manganese.....                                   | 65 |
| 2.4. Radiation Quantities and Units.....                  | 67 |
| 2.4.1. Exposure .....                                     | 68 |
| 2.4.2. Doses and its Units.....                           | 69 |
| 2.4.3. Absorbed Dose Rate.....                            | 70 |
| 2.4.4. Annual Effective Dose.....                         | 71 |
| 2.4.5. Radium Equivalent Activity.....                    | 72 |
| 2.4.6. External Hazard Index.....                         | 72 |
| 2.4.7. Internal Hazard Index.....                         | 73 |

---



---

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 2.4.8. Dose in the Environment..... | 73 |
| 2.5. Shielding materials.....       | 74 |

**CHAPTER 3**  
**Experimental Techniques**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 3.1 Experimental Work.....   | 78 |
| 3.2 Sampling.....  | 79 |
| 3.2.1 Qalubeya drain .....   | 79 |
| 3.2.2 Bilbis and Bahr El-Baqar Drain.....  | 82 |
| 3.3 Equipment.....   | 84 |
| 3.3.1 In situ measurements.....  | 84 |
| 3.3.2 Chemical oxygen demand (COD).....  | 85 |
| 3.3.3 UV measurements.....   | 86 |
| 3.3.4 Total Carbon (TC), Total Organic Carbon (TOC)<br>and Total Inorganic Carbon (TIC)..... | 86 |
| 3.3.5 Ion Chromatography.....  | 86 |
| 3.4 Metals.....  | 87 |
| 3.4.1 Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission.....<br>Spectrometer (ICP/AES).....         | 87 |
| 3.4.1.1 Instrumentation.....   | 88 |
| 3.5 Atomic Absorption Spectrometer.....  | 89 |
| 3.6 Natural Radioactivity Measurements.....  | 90 |
| 3.6.1 Natural radioactivity analysis in water samples...                                     | 91 |
| 3.6.1.1 Alpha Spectrometry.....  | 91 |

---



---

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 3.6.1.2 Gamma spectrometry .....   | 91  |
| 3.6.1.2.1 Water Samples measurements by Gamma ray<br>spectrometry (HP-Ge <sub>1</sub> )..... | 92  |
| 3.6.1.2.1.1 Calibration.....   | 95  |
| 3.7 Sediment Samples Collection and Preparation.....   | 99  |
| 3.8 Germanium gamma-ray detector.....  | 100 |
| 3.9 Experimental Set-Up.....   | 105 |
| 3.9.1 Hyper pure germanium detector (HPGe <sub>2</sub> ).....                                | 105 |
| 3.10 Energy and efficiency calibration of the electronic<br>systems.....                     | 113 |
| 3.10.1 Energy calibration.....   | 113 |
| 3.10.2 Efficiency calibration.....   | 115 |
| 3.11 Specific activity measurements.....   | 115 |
| 3.12 Detection limits.....   | 120 |

## CHAPTER 4

### Results and Discussion

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 4.1 Introduction.....                   | 122 |
| 4.2 Part (A): Qalubeya drain.....       | 122 |
| 4.2.1 Temperature.....                  | 122 |
| 4.2.2 Dissolved oxygen (DO).....        | 124 |
| 4.2.3 PH and redox potential.....       | 126 |
| 4.2.4 Electrical Conductivity.....      | 128 |
| 4.2.5 TC, TOC, TIC and SAC.....         | 131 |
| 4.2.6 Chemical oxygen demand (COD)..... | 133 |

---



---

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>4.2.7 Adsorbable organic halogens.....</b>  | <b>135</b> |
| <b>4.2.8 Anions.....</b>   | <b>136</b> |
| <b>4.2.9 Cations.....</b>  | <b>138</b> |
| <b>4.2.9.1 Alkali- and Alkaline-earth metals.....</b>  | <b>138</b> |
| <b>4.2.9.2 Ammonia.....</b>  | <b>140</b> |
| <b>4.2.9.3 Phosphorus, boron, aluminium, silicon and heavy metals.....</b>   | <b>141</b> |
| <b>4.2.10 Natural radioactivity of Qalubeya Drain in Water samples using (HP-Ge<sub>1</sub>).....</b>                                    | <b>145</b> |
| <b>4.2.11 Total uranium.....</b>   | <b>147</b> |
| <b>4.2.12 Statistical Analysis for Radionuclide Isotopes and Heavy Metals and Major Elements in water along Qalubeya Drain.....</b>      | <b>150</b> |
| <b>4.2.13 Natural radioactivity of Qalubeya Drain in sediment samples using (HP-Ge<sub>2</sub>).....</b>                                 | <b>158</b> |
| <b>4.2.13.1 Statistical Analysis for Radionuclide Isotopes and Heavy Metals and Major Elements in sediment along Qalubeya Drain.....</b> | <b>162</b> |
| <b>4.2.14 Relations between radionuclide in water and sediment samples collected from Qalubeya Drain.....</b>                            | <b>171</b> |

---



---

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>4.3 Part (B): Bilbis Drain.....</b>   | <b>174</b> |
| <b>4.3.1 Temperature.....</b>  | <b>174</b> |
| <b>4.3.2 Dissolved oxygen (DO).....</b>  | <b>175</b> |
| <b>4.3.3 PH and redox potential.....</b>   | <b>177</b> |
| <b>4.3.4 Electrical Conductivity.....</b>  | <b>180</b> |
| <b>4.3.5 TC, TOC, TIC and SAC.....</b>   | <b>183</b> |
| <b>4.3.6 Chemical oxygen demand (COD).....</b>   | <b>184</b> |
| <b>4.3.7 Adsorbable organic halogens.....</b>  | <b>187</b> |
| <b>4.3.8 Anions.....</b>   | <b>188</b> |
| <b>4.3.9 Cations.....</b>  | <b>190</b> |
| <b>4.3.9.1 Alkali and Alkaline-earth metals.....</b>   | <b>190</b> |
| <b>4.3.9.2 Ammonia.....</b>  | <b>193</b> |
| <b>4.3.9.3 Phosphorus, boron, aluminium, silicon and<br/>                heavy metals.....</b>   | <b>194</b> |
| <b>4.3.10 Natural radioactivity of Bilbis Drain in Water<br/>                samples using (HP-Ge<sub>1</sub>).....</b>  | <b>198</b> |
| <b>4.3.10.4 Uranium content in water samples collected<br/>                from Bilbis drain.....</b>  | <b>200</b> |
| <b>4.3.11 Statistical Analysis for Radionuclide Isotopes and<br/>                Heavy Metals and Major Elements in water along<br/>                Bilbis Drain.....</b>    | <b>206</b> |
| <b>4.3.12 Natural radioactivity of Bilbis Drain in sediment<br/>        samples using (HP-Ge<sub>2</sub>).....</b>   | <b>213</b> |
| <b>4.3.13 Statistical Analysis for Radionuclide Isotopes and<br/>                Heavy Metals and Major Elements in sediment<br/>                along Bilbis Drain.....</b> | <b>215</b> |

**Conclusion .....223**  
**References ..... 227**  
**Arabic Summary**

## *LIST OF FIGURES*

| No. of Fig. |  | Page |
|-------------|--|------|
| (1-1)       | River Nile delta from space, Ismailia Canal (blue), Bilbis- Bahr El Baqar Drain (red), Qalubeya Drain (pink).....                      | 3    |
| (1-2)       | The decay series of Uranium ( $^{238}\text{U}$ ).....  | 13   |
| (1-3)       | The decay series of Uranium ( $^{235}\text{U}$ ).....  | 15   |
| (1-4)       | The decay series of Thorium ( $^{232}\text{Th}$ ).....   | 16   |
| (1-5)       | The decay series of Neptunium ( $^{237}\text{Np}$ ).....   | 17   |
| (1-6)       | Cs-137 decay diagram.....  | 23   |
| (2-1)       | Simplified pathways for airborne releases to man.....  | 54   |
| (2-2)       | Simplified pathways for waterborne releases to man.....  | 57   |
| (2-3)       | Most soils contain four basic components: mineral particles, water, air, and organic matter.....                                       | 60   |
| (2-4)       | Distribution of population of 25 countries with respect to the outdoor absorbed dose rate in air from terrestrial gamma radiation..... | 74   |
| (2-5)       | Various types of radiations and shielding.....   | 75   |
| (2-6)       | Half-thickness values vs. energy for commonly used shielding materials.....  | 77   |
| (3-1)       | Sampling sites along the Qalubeya Drain.....   | 80   |
| (3-2)       | Water flow rate along the Qalubeya drain.....  | 81   |
| (3-3)       | Sampling sites on the Bilbis and Bahr El-Baqar Drain.....  | 83   |