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## GROUNDWATER AND NITRATES IN GREECE - AN OVERVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

*A project has been carried out to evaluate nitrates in groundwater in Greece and to subsequently establish a continuous monitoring and data analysis program, according to directive 91/676 of the European Economic Community. Following detailed hydrogeological consideration and study, 165 sampling points were selected to cover all the hydrological departments and the main hydrologic basins of continental Greece and the island of Crete. The majority of the points selected are in alluvial or other porous media formations that are favorable for agricultural or industrial activities. The results show that current conditions appear to present few hazards, probably as a result of the choice of sampling times and the natural reduction of nitrates in the unsaturated zone. Better results are expected after continuous monitoring and data analysis.*

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*Reference: Stournaras, G.; Groundwater and Nitrates in Greece - An Overview, Journal of Environmental Hydrology, Vol. 6, Paper 4, May 1998.*

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