

Site Investigation of Groundwater Potential at Jasin Using Electrical Resistivity Imaging

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Abstract: Groundwater is one of the alternatives for water resource to meet the increasing demand of clean water supply in Malaysia. Groundwater is water that accumulates in crevices of rock, soil and sand at the bottom of the earth resulting from water flowing along the surface of streams or lakes. Many researches have been carried out to overcome the issues on demand and supply of clean water including the usage of geophysics analysis with electrical resistivity method. The Vocational College in Jasin, Melaka was chosen as a potential area to detect the groundwater sources. Three horizontal lines were identified at the location namely Jasin-1, Jasin-2, and Jasin-3, before running the resistivity testing using the ABEM Terrameter SAS 4000. The protocol of Pole-Dipole was used for Jasin-1 and Jasin-2 while the Schlumberger was used for Jasin-3 in order to read the data. Then, the data was analysed using the RES2DINV software and presented in 2-dimensional images. Based on the findings, Jasin Vocational College is a potential area to produce groundwater with resistivity reading of 25 to 100 ohm at 30 to 135 meter depth. Of the three lines, Jasin-1 was recommended as a tube well potential spot. The analysis also shows that Jasin-1 area consists of alluvium form sand, clay and gravel.

Keywords: Electrical Resistivity, Groundwater, Protocol

I. Introduction

Groundwater is the water present beneath the earth's surface in soil pore spaces and in the fractures of rock formation. The area of the water retained in the soil is called the saturated zone where the result of geological formations. The groundwater is collected and moved slowly through layers of soil, sand and stone known as Aquifer. Speed of the groundwater depends on the room size of soil or rock and how the room was connected. Groundwater can be brought to the surface naturally by the flow of water to the lake or through the drain. In addition, it can also be extracted by drilling wells into the aquifer [1].

Besides that, the groundwater supply can be improved by rain or melting snow. In some parts of the world, people are facing serious water shortages because groundwater is used faster than the rate of replenishment of groundwater supplies. Groundwater is a natural resource which is used in the life requirements, industry and agriculture. In some areas where the materials used on the surface is permeable and is contaminated, it could cause groundwater contamination. If the groundwater is contaminated, it is no longer safe to use. Therefore, it is imperative to preserve groundwater resources so that these resources can be used continuously.

II. Materials And Methods

Field work was carried out at the Vocational College in Jasin, Melaka. Figure 1 shows the location of the Jasin Vocational College. The college is located at Bukit Telemong, Simpang Kelubi on a 40 acre land which was once an oil palm plantations area. Among the villages and placement available in the vicinity of the collage are Kampung Kelubi, Kampung Kesang Tua, Kampung Seri Kesang, Kampung Kemengkang, Felda Kemendor, Serkam Estate and Air Baruk. Investigation of groundwater in this study was carried out by using electrical resistivity method to determine the depth and specific location of the groundwater.



Figure 1: Google Earth view of Jasin Vocational College

Figure 2 shows the geological map of Peninsular Malaysia from the Malaysian Department of Mineral and Geoscience.

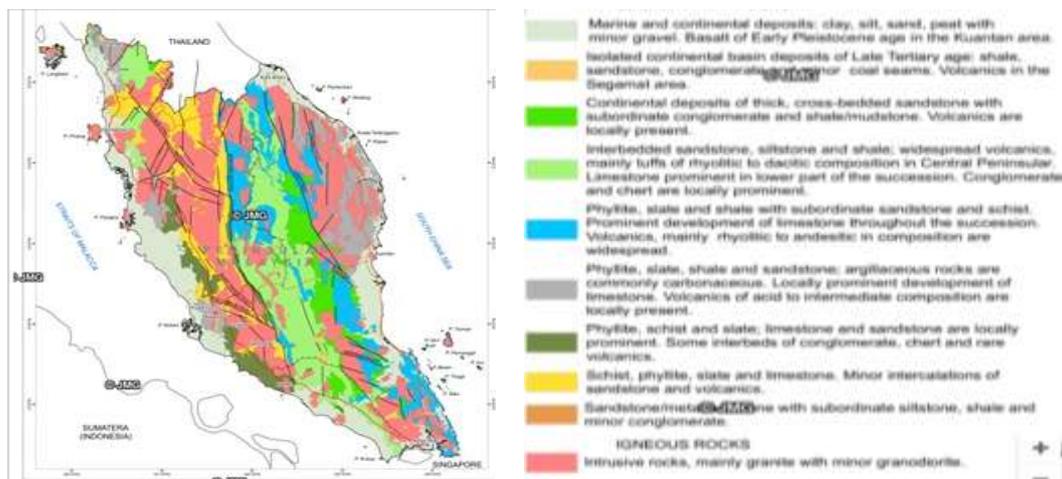


Figure 2: Geological maps

Source: Department of Mineral and Geoscience, Malaysia[2].

Referring to Figure 2, the potential to discover the groundwater in this area is quite promising based on the geological information of this area. There are several types of soil exist in Jasin which are phyllite, schist and slate; limestone and sandstone are locally prominent. Some interbeds of conglomerate, chert and rare volcanics[3]. Three cross-sectional lines were selected to facilitate the determination of the depth and location of groundwater by using the resistivity test. The selection of these lines was based on the distance of the span and land of terrain. The minimum and maximum spans to run the resistivity test are about 200 meters and 400 meters, respectively. All selected cross-sections have distances of 300 to 400 meters span.

The resistivity measurements are normally functioning by applying electric current into the ground through two electrodes namely C1 and C2, and measuring the resulting voltage difference at two potential electrodes namely P1 and P2. Apart from that, the electrodes selector is the device to select which electrode should be used to transmit the current for collecting data. The data were recorded to Terrameter and then were analysed using resistivity software.

Table 1: List of the instrument that can be used to measure the resistivity

No	Name of tools	Quantity	Equipment	Description
1	Terrameter SAS 4000	1		To save all the resistivity data before transfer it to computer software
2	Electrodes selector, ES 1064.	1		Select which electrode should be use to transmit the current for collecting the data.
3	Cable	4		To transfer the current from the electrodes selector.
4	Electrodes	80		To transmit the current to ground surface.
5	Jumper	80		To transmit the current to the electrodes.
6	Battery pack	1		To generate the the Terrameter.

2.2 Procedure of taking data

Firstly, the horizontal lines must be selected; which are Jasin-1, Jasin-2, and Jasin-3. The selection of the lines must be selected based on the width or the area and the area also must be free from building structure obstacles during resistivity measurement works. Then to read the data of analysis, the Protocol Pole-dipole was used for Jasin-1 and Jasin-2 while the protocol Schlumberger was used for Jasin-3. The Protocol Pole-Dipole and Schlumberger consist of two readings, as the Pole Dipole –Long (POLDIP4L) and Pole Dipole-Short (POLDI4S) while Schlumberger Short and Long (SCHLUM-L/S).

2.3 The Field Arrangement for the ABEM Lund

Figure 3 shows the outlines of ABEM Lund Imaging System in a 2D survey. Each mark on the cables indicated an electrode position. The cables were placed along a single line (the sideways shift in the figure is only for clarity). Figure 3 also shows the principle of moving cables when using the roll-along technique. The total layout length depends on the spacing between the nodes, but is usually between 160 metres and 400 metres. The field arrangement steps are as follow:

1. The Lund imaging cable reel 1, 2, 3 and 4 were placed on the three horizontal lines. At JASIN_1, the cable of 5 metres spacing with 100 metres long at each of the ring was connected to cable 1 and 2. Meanwhile cable 3 and 4 were connected using the cable connector. The groove of the cable must follow the instrument direction at the edge of the cable.
2. Then the electrode must be planted into the ground at the depth of around 100 mm with 4.5 metres spacing for cable 2 and 3. For cable 1 and 4, an electrode was also planted with 9 metres spacing at the selected horizontal line which was next to the Lund cable. This was to connect the electrode to the Lund cable by using the jumper.
3. Next the Lund Imaging cable was connected to the Electrode Selector where cable 1 and cable 2 were connected to Connector-1 and cable 3 and 4 were connected to Connector-2.
4. Finally the multi cable from selector was connected to Terrameter SAS 4000.

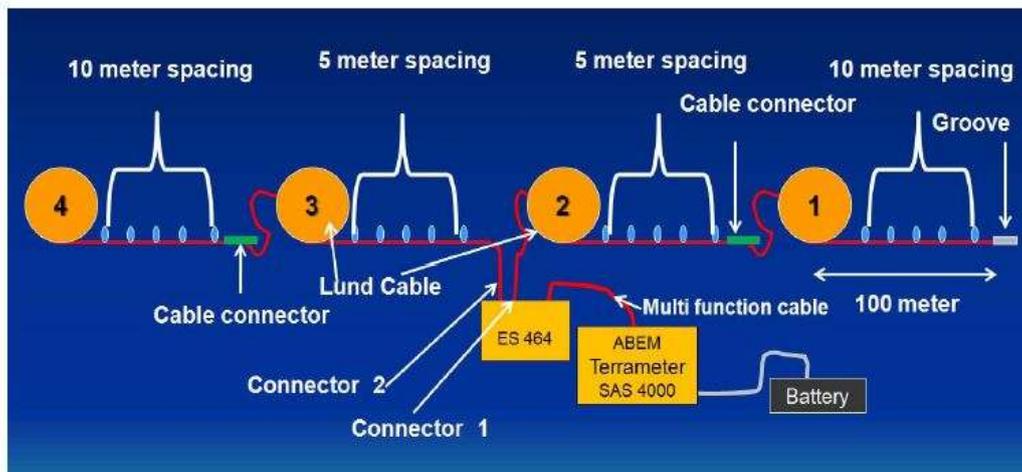


Figure 3: Field arrangement for ABEM Lund system

III. Results And Discussions

Table 2 shows the value of resistivity of rocks, mineral and chemical used in interpreting the 2D images obtained from the analysis. Generally, analysis outputs show the subsurface profile of Jasin-1, Jasin-2, and Jasin-3. As a whole, these results determine the type of ground and also detected the position and depth of potential groundwater source.

Table 2:The value of resistivity of rocks, minerals and chemicals

Material	Resistivity ($\Omega \cdot m$)	Conductivity (Siemen/m)
Igneous and Metamorphic Rocks		
Granite	$5 \times 10^3 - 10^6$	$10^{-6} - 2 \times 10^{-4}$
Basalt	$10^3 - 10^6$	$10^{-6} - 10^{-3}$
Slate	$6 \times 10^2 - 4 \times 10^7$	$2.5 \times 10^{-4} - 1.7 \times 10^{-3}$
Marble	$10^2 - 2.5 \times 10^8$	$4 \times 10^{-9} - 10^{-2}$
Quartzite	$10^2 - 2 \times 10^8$	$5 \times 10^{-9} - 10^{-2}$
Sedimentary Rocks		
Sandstone	$8 - 4 \times 10^3$	$2.5 \times 10^{-4} - 0.125$
Shale	$20 - 2 \times 10^3$	$5 \times 10^{-4} - 0.05$
Limestone	$50 - 4 \times 10^2$	$2.5 \times 10^{-3} - 0.02$
Soils and waters		
Clay	1 - 100	0.01 - 1
Alluvium	10 - 800	$1.25 \times 10^{-3} - 0.1$
Groundwater (fresh)	10 - 100	0.01 - 0.1
Sea water	0.2	5
Chemicals		
Iron	9.074×10^{-8}	1.102×10^7
0.01 M Potassium chloride	0.708	1.413
0.01 M Sodium chloride	0.843	1.185
0.01 M acetic acid	6.13	0.163
Nylene	6.998×10^{16}	1.429×10^{-17}

Source: Keller & Frischknecht (1979); Daniels & Alberty (1966 in Loke, 1999)[4]

Figure 4 shows the analysis graphical outcome of Jasin-1.

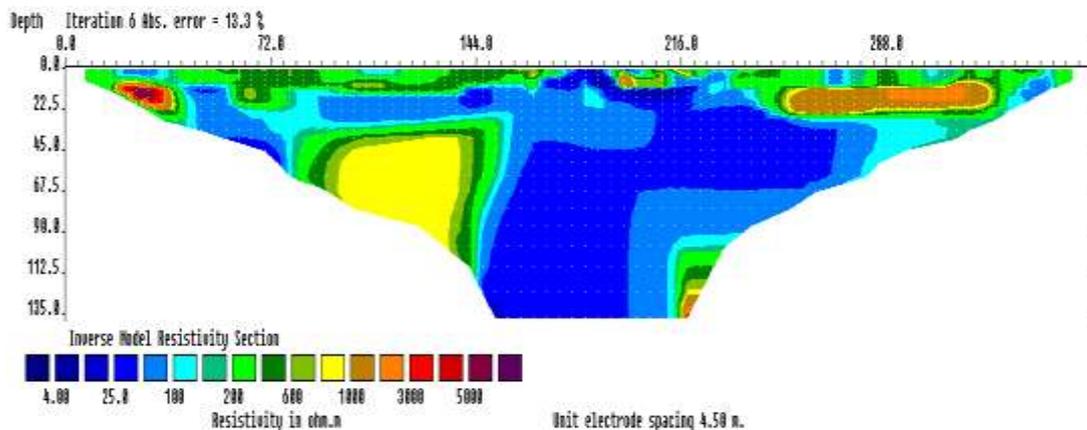


Figure 4: Result analysis data for Jasin-1

Referring to Figure 4, the line measurement for Jasin-1 resistivity was located at coordinate N 02°19'32.190" and E 102°24'30.575" with the length of 360 metres. The Pole-Dipole protocol was used for this field work locations with electrodes spacing of 4.5 meter for the short cable and 9.0 meter for the long cable. Using this protocol, the lowest resistivity data readings was between 4 ohm.m to 100 ohm.m at the depth of 30 metre to 135 metre which is the groundwater potential area. Previous study reported that water in sediment area has a resistivity value of 10-100 ohm.m[5]. Meanwhile, the medium resistivity data reading is between 100-300 ohm.m where was located at around 10-65 metre depth. Sandy clay has a resistivity value of 100-250 ohm.m[6]. Besides that, there is an area that has resistivity reading higher than 300 ohm.m and above showing the existence of sand and gravel with silt, slightly fractured bedrock with dry soil filled cracks and massive bedded and hard bedrock were 305 ohm.m, 305 – 2438 ohm.m and 2438 ohm.m and over respectively[7]. Figure 5 shows the analysis graphical outcome of Jasin-2.

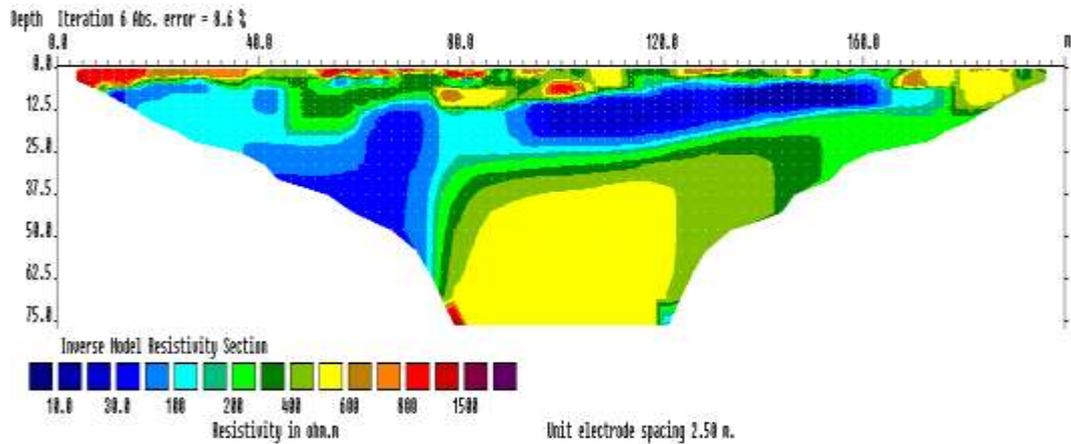


Figure 5: Result analysis data for Jasin-2

Referring to Figure 5, the line measurement is situated at coordinate N 02°19'19.629" and E 102°24'34.228" with the length of 200 metre. For this line of measurement, there were two types of protocol been used which were Pole-Dipole and Schlumberger Protocol. The electrodes spacing for this line of measure is 2.5 metre for short cable and 5 metre for long cable. By using the same electrodes spacing for both protocols which, two different readings of resistivity data can be analysed from this line of measurement. For the Pole-Dipole Protocol, data of resistivity reading can be divided into three level which are the lowest, medium and highest. The lowest resistivity data reading between 10-100 ohm.m at the depth of 10- 65 metre. While, the medium resistivity data reading is between 100-300 ohm.m at 5-10 metre and 20- 70 metre depths. There were some areas that showed the reading of resistivity data higher than 300 ohm.m and above. Meanwhile, for Schlumberger Protocol, at the depth of 5-40 metre showed that the reading of resistivity data was between 15-100 ohm.m. While, at the depth of 5-10 metre the resistivity data reading was around between 200-500 ohm.m. Based on the analysed data, it shows that this area has no potential of groundwater sources. Figure 6 shows the analysis graphical outcome of Jasin-3.

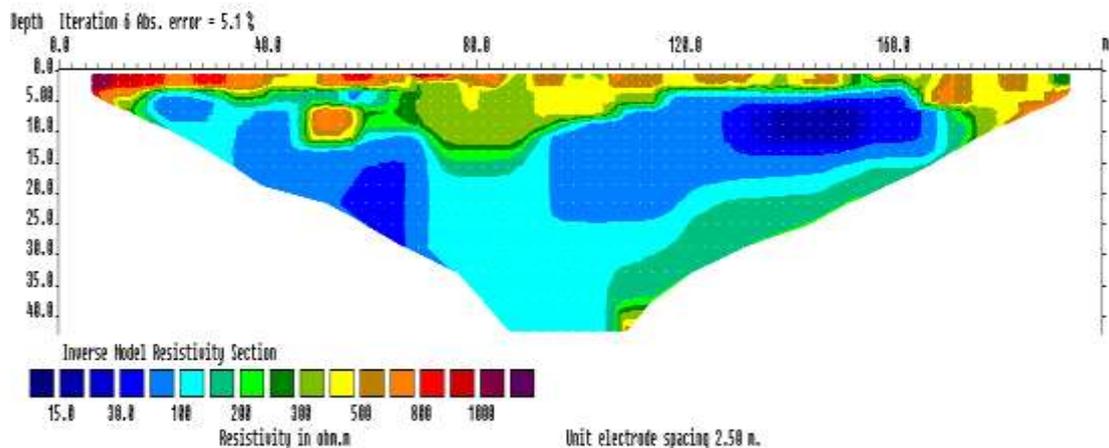


Figure 6: Result analysis data for Jasin-3

Referring to Figure 6, for Jasin-3, Pole-dipole and Schlumberger Protocol also has been used. This line of measurement was located around 300 metres from Jasin-1 area. The electrodes spacing for this line of measure was 2.8 metre for short cable and 5.6 metre for long cable. The resistivity reading showed that at the depth of 10-40 metre the reading of resistivity data was between 4-100 ohm.m which at this depth it can be considered as subsurface water and less potential as groundwater source. From the depth of 50-80 metre, the resistivity data reading was 200-600 ohm.m. Based on that it showed the subsurface profile of this area was slightly fractured bedrock with dry soil filled cracks massive bedded and hard bedrock. While by using the Schlumberger Protocol it has shown that this area was less potential to consist of groundwater source at the depth of 5-40 metre with resistivity reading between 7-100 ohm.m.

IV. Conclusion

It can be concluded that the geophysics analysis using the resistivity method has successfully reached its objective to identify the position of the groundwater. Hence, the finding can be an evidence that mineral water can be obtained from the study area. Of the three lines, findings showed that Jasin-1 has the highest of mineral water than other areas. In addition, the method used would be time and energy saving. This method can also be applied to other fields such as civil engineering, building site design, archeology research, geo-engineering and many more. Since water pollution in this country has increased day by day and so as the clean water sources is declining. The option is by using groundwater that has been proven cleaner than the surface water. Lastly, the nature has to be preserved and taken care of in order to maintain the ecology system.

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