

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2082 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs S V Kalyan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 26/8/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 27/08/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2082

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

2082. Mrs S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether there is a national aquatic ecosystem health monitoring programme (NAEHMP) for (a) dams, (b) reservoirs and (c) impoundments similar to the programme for rivers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether such programmes will be instituted; if not, why not; if so, when? NW2483E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) No.
- (1)(b) No.
- (1)(c) No. Currently, the National Aquatic Ecosystem Health Monitoring Programme (NAEHMP) is only applied in rivers. The monitoring methods and ecological indices developed for this programme are very specific to lotic (flowing) water ecosystems and can not be applied with confidence in dams, reservoirs and impoundments. The reason for this is that since the inception of the then River Health Programme in 1995, the focus was on establishing reliable methods to determine the health of rivers in South Africa.

The only national monitoring programme currently focusing on dams, reservoirs and impoundments is the National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme, which specifically measures the nutrient enrichment of dams and their trophic status. As part of this programme, the development of a diatom index is being investigated which will also be used within the NAEHMP.

- (2) At the moment, the focus is on the planning and development of the National Estuaries Monitoring Programme and the Sediment Monitoring Programme (SMP). The purpose of the latter programme (SMP) is to monitor the accumulation of sediment in the receiving water bodies such as impoundments, dams and reservoirs.

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