

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -09- - 6

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water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: W.J Maluleke
Telephone: 012-392 1409
Reference: 16/2/7/ A 210/D1/X1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2304 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr P F Smith (IFP); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

6/9/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE:

11/09/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2304

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 25)

2304. Mr P F Smith (IFP) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department granted an exemption to the Northern Sewage Works permitting them to dump sewage, including raw sewage, into the Jukskei River; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what was the nature of the agreement and (b) how much sewage enters the Hartebeespoort dam daily from this source;
- (2) whether her department has commissioned, or is in possession of, a study on the consequences of this on the quality of the dam's water; if so, what are the results of the study; if not,
- (3) whether the said permit has expired; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether sewage is discharged into the Jukskei River or any other river entering the Hartebeespoort dam; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether her department has taken action to stop the activity; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Yes, my Department granted an exemption to the Northern Sewage Works only to discharge treated effluent and not raw sewage into the Jukskei River.
- (1)(b) The Northern Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) is allowed to discharge 430 ML/day into the Jukskei River which flows into the Hartbeespoort Dam.
- (2) No, my Department has not commissioned, or in possession of a study to determine the consequence of the Northern WWTW discharge into the Dam. However, due to the increase in effluent quantity from the WWTW, not only from Johannesburg Northern work, but other WWTW in the upper catchments, my Department will consider such a study to determine the minimum phosphate loading that can be allowed in the Dam without turning the Dam into hypertrophic state.
- (3) Yes, the exemption has expired and Johannesburg Water Company applied for a Water use license in terms of section 40 of the National water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) on 5 November 2008. The application has been evaluated and outstanding information has been requested from Johannesburg Water Company.
- (4) Yes, treated sewage effluent from the following WWTW is discharged into the Jukskei River:
 - Northern WWTW
 - Driefontein WWTW
 - Sunderland Ridge WWTW
 - Percy Stewart WWTW
 - Randfontein WWTW
 - Magaliesburg WWTW

- (5) Yes, my Department has issued a pre- directive Notice on 23 August 2010 to the Mogale City Local Municipality to rectify the problems (i.e. the plant not being fully operational) at the Magaliesburg WWTW since it is not functioning except the screening and the discharge of substandard effluent.

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