

MINISTRY OF WATER AND **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

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6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2741 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MS B P SONJICA, MP

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 04 . 10 . 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2741

<u>DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 SEPTEMBER 2010</u> (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 30)

2741. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any (a) pre-directive, (b) directive or (c) criminal charge has been laid against the Ngwathe Municipality in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether this municipality has been pumping untreated or partially treated sewage into the Vaal River; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the municipality informed her department of this action; if not, what action will be taken against the municipality for this omission; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what (a) are the dates on which the municipality pumped untreated or partially treated sewage into the Vaal River and (b) is the estimated number of mega litres that was pumped in total;
- (5) (a) what are the dates of the last three inspections by officials from her department of the treatment works from which the pumping of partially treated or untreated sewage into the Vaal River has been occurring and (b) in each case, what are the (i) names and (ii) designations of officials that conducted these inspections?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) No pre-directive has been issued by my Department against the Ngwathe Local Municipality (LM). The results from the latest inspection conducted by my Department on 21 September 2010 did not indicate any untreated sewage discharges into the Vaal River.
- (1)(b) Falls away.
- (1)(c) Falls away.
- (2) No; as indicated in paragraph (1)(a), the latest results of the final effluent which is discharged into the Vaal River shows compliance to the General effluent Standard.
- (3) Falls away.
- (4)(a) Falls away.
- (4)(b) Falls away.
- (5)(a) The treatment works was inspected on 21 July 2010, 25 August 2010 and 21 September 2010.
- (5)(b)(i) Ms Portia Chawane.
- (5)(b)(ii) Ms Portia Chawane is a Water Pollution Control Officer.