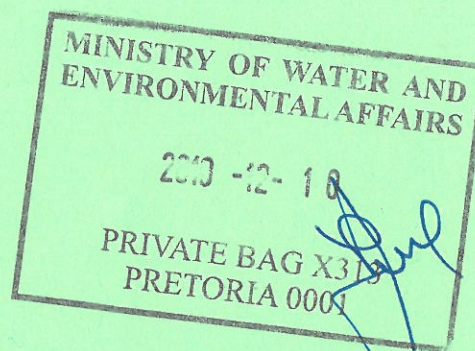




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

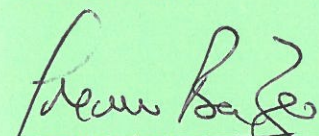


Enquiries: Mr H Muller
Telephone: 051-405-9000
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3305 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs P C Duncan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 9/12/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓


MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010/12/14

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3305

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 12 NOVEMBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 37)

3305. Mrs P C Duncan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any (a) pre-notices, (b) directives or (c) criminal charges have been brought against the Kopanong Municipality for transgressing the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what (i) are the relevant details, (ii) is the current risk assessment of each of the (aa) waste water treatment works (WWTW) and (bb) water purification plants in this municipality and (iii) is the current state of the sedimentation dams in each of these WWTWs;
- (2) whether she has any plans in place to rehabilitate these (a) WWTWs and (b) water purification plants; if not, why not; if so, what plans;
- (3) whether she has been informed that blood from an abattoir flows into the Philippolis WWTW; if so, what steps has she taken to stop this situation; if not,
- (4) whether she will investigate this situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Yes, on 4 May 2010, pre-directives were issued to the Kopanong Local Municipality (LM) for the Bethulie, Trompsburg and Reddersburg Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs). On 17 June 2010, my Department conducted follow-up inspections and noted that the Bethulie, and Reddersburg WWTWs had been upgraded.
- (1)(b) No directives have been issued to the Kopanong LM thus far since there is a willingness to improve the situation and as indicated in (1)(a) above, they are in the process of upgrading the WWTWs.
- (1)(c)(i) No criminal charges have been laid against the Kopanong LM thus far since there is a willingness to improve the situation and as indicated in (1)(a) above, they are in the process of upgrading the WWTWs.
- (1)(c)(ii)(aa) No risk assessments were conducted on any of the WWTWs as they are in the process of being upgraded.
- (1)(c)(ii)(bb) The Kopanong LM is only operating one water purification plant which is located in Jagersfontein while all other water purification plants in the Kopanong municipal area are operated by Bloem Water.

While the Department does not conduct risk assessments (as the case with WWTWs) on water purifications systems, as part of the Blue Drop Certification process, items such as "water safety plans" and "failure response management" serve the same purpose and are evaluated. The Kopanong LM did not participate in the 2009 Blue Drop assessment but I have been informed that a Blue Drop task team has now been formed between my Department and the Municipality with the purpose to improve the situation. The good news is that although the municipality is currently still not compliant on all the Blue Drop criteria, it is encouraging to note that the monthly reports that my Department receives from the municipality have been indicating a gradual improvement on criteria such as water safety plan, maintenance and management skills, water quality compliance and asset management.

- (1)(c)(iii) The sedimentation dams at each WWTW are currently fully functional as they are all cleaned out on a daily basis.
- (2)(a) Yes, there are plans in place. The WWTWs in Jagersfontein, Philipolis, Reddersburg, Trompsburg, Edenburg and Springfontein are in the process of rehabilitation and upgrading using Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funds. The Department is monitoring the progress of each project.
- (2)(b) The Kopanong LM has one water purification plant in Jagersfontein which was rehabilitated by the Department during mid September 2010 as part of an operation and maintenance support project. A new 2 megalitre/ day (Ml/day) plant to augment supply from the existing plant is under construction which will be commissioned at the end of March 2011. All other water purification plants (ie Bethuli, Gariiep, Philipolis, Trompsburg, Springfontein, Reddersburg and Edenburg) in the Kopanong municipal area are operated by Bloem Water through a recently signed agreement. As Bloem Water is a well run Water Board with the necessary technical skills and proven capability in the field of water purification, the quality of water provided to communities should gradually improve in future.
- (3) Yes, the Department was notified that blood from an abattoir flows into the Philipolis WWTW and subsequently took samples from the WWTW. The results revealed high levels of chemical oxygen demand which is indicative of lack of oxygen to oxidise the waste matter.
- The Department is now supporting the Kopanong LM to draft its wastewater by-laws by which industrial effluent such as outflow from abattoirs will be regulated.
- (4) The situation is under investigation and we are awaiting the outcome of the samples analysis.