



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010-12-09

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3432 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 8/12/2010

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 3432

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19 NOVEMBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

3432. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What is the status of the effluent discharge from the Balfour waste water treatment works (WWTW) in Dipaleseng Municipality and (b) to what extent does the flow into the Balfour WWTW comply with the design specification of the plant as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) What (a) is the effect of the discharge from the abattoir run by Karan Beef on the Balfour WWTW and (b) actions have been taken to ameliorate the effect that the discharge from the abattoir has on the Balfour WWTW;
- (3) whether there has been any (a) pre-notices, (b) directives or (c) criminal charges laid against the municipality for any noncompliance in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) Whether any efforts are being made by the municipality to rehabilitate the Balfour WWTW; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The effluent discharged from the Balfour Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) does not comply with its permit conditions.
- (1)(b) The Balfour WWTW is a 4,5 megalitres/day (Ml/day) activated sludge plant which still operates within the design specifications (an average daily flow of 3,6Ml/d) as at 22 October 2010. New developments in the area however pose a risk to future operations.
- (2)(a) The technology that is used in the Balfour WWTW cannot adequately treat the effluent it receives from the Karan Beef abattoir due to its very high content of fats and blood. This consequently leads to possible pollution of the Suikerbosrand River.
- (2)(b) Karan Beef has installed a pre-treatment plant to partially treat its effluent before it is discharged to the WWTW and there should be an improvement in the effluent quality in the future.
- (3)(a) No pre-notices have been issued to the Dipaleseng LM as it is implementing agreements for upgrading the WWTW.
- (3)(b) No directives have been issued to the Dipaleseng LM.
- (3)(c) No criminal charges have been laid against the Dipaleseng LM due to their commitment to upgrade the Balfour WWTW. Should the Dipaleseng LM not adhere to their commitment, the Department will proceed with the Enforcement Protocol steps. Furthermore, the Department is currently conducting its Green Drop Certification Programme for all the municipal wastewater treatment systems.
- (4) The Dipaleseng LM has developed plans to undertake the necessary rehabilitation of the Balfour WWTW and requested funds from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant for this project.

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