



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Enquiries: A Starkey  
Telephone: 043 604 5404  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3547 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (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 3547

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 NOVEMBER 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 39)

**3547. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) With reference to the reply to question 1904 on 18 Augustus 2010, (a) what are the results of analysed water samples that were taken from the Swartkops River in the Eastern Cape since 1 June 2010 and (b) who is responsible for the monitoring;
- (2) whether she has received an action plan from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM), as requested, to deal with the pollution of the Swartkops River; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action (i) has been taken or (ii) will be taken against the municipality, (b) what are the details of the action plan and (c) to what extent will the plan (i) deal with and (ii) affect the pollution problem;
- (3) whether the municipality submits the results of analyses of water samples from the Swartkops River to her department; if not, why not; if so, what are the details of the samples that were taken since (a) 4 May 2010 from Zwartkops Estuary at (i) Girdlestone Redhouse, (ii) Lafarge Quarry and (iii) Motherwell canal and (b) 6 May 2010 from the Swartkops River at (i) Frans Claasen Bridge and (ii) Van Schalkwyk Bridge;
- (4) whether she has been informed that the municipality has refused to make the results of its monitoring of the river available to the public; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action will she take to ensure that the results are made freely available to interested parties?

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**REPLY:**

- (1)(a) Refer to **Annexure A** for the results of analysed water samples taken from the Swartkops River for the period 1 June 2010 to November 2010.
- (1)(b) The Department's Regional Office: Eastern Cape is responsible for the monitoring of the Swartkops River.
- (2)(a) No, the Department has not yet received a final action plan from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM). However, during a meeting held on 2 December 2010 between the Department, the NMBM and their specialist consultants (dealing with the action plan on behalf of the NMBM), the NMBM reported on the progress made since the appointment of consultants to draw up the action plan.
  - (2)(a)(i)  
And
  - (2)(a)(ii) At this stage, the Department has and will not take action against the NMBM as there is evidence of a commitment to address the problems at the Swartkops River.

- (2)(b) The plan has identified the following key focus areas amongst others; artificial wetland monitoring at lower reaches of Motherwell Canal including an option of upgrading this artificial wetland; sewage spillages; storm water ingresses and water leaks; litter and waste; litter traps in the canal; investigation of Markman Canal including pollution sources. As this is a working document, progress on some of the above issues will be reported at the next meeting scheduled for the beginning of 2011.
- (2)(c)(i) The plan will deal with key focus areas as mentioned in 2(b).
- (2)(c)(ii) The action plan has identified short and long term activities. If the NMBM implements the plan, then the water quality will improve in the Swartkops River.
- (3) No, the NMBM has not submitted the results to the Department. However, because the Department is now part of the Action Plan Committee for Swartkops River, it is expected that all sampled results will be discussed by the committee members.
  - (3)(a)(i) Falls away
  - (3)(a)(ii) Falls away
  - (3)(a)(iii) Falls away
  - (3)(b)(i) Falls away
  - (3)(b)(ii) Falls away
- (4) The Department has not been informed that the NMBM has refused to share its findings with the general public or interested parties. However, the Department will write to the NMBM to advise them of steps that are required to sensitise the community regarding measures that needs to be taken by the public to avert any potential danger or harm, if any.

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## ANNEXURE A

## RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSIS OF THE SWARTKOPS RIVER

SWARTKOPS RIVER AT FRANS CLAASEN BRIDGE										
DATE	pH	EC	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/28	7.3	444	39	5	57	2.33	1.98	5.05	70	56
2010/09/06	7.7	404	30		72	1.25	1.89	4.90	1360	760
2010/10/21	8.3	460	28		<20	0.24	1.03	1.84	70	54
2010/11/17	7.6	313	20		49	1.52	0.92	1.79	1550	930
SWARTKOPS RIVER AT VAN SCHALKWYK BRIDGE1										
DATE	pH	EC	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/28	7.2	338	16		30	11.5	7.23	0.91	258	162
2010/09/06	7.2	346	42		65	12.3	10.8	0.59	222	160
2010/10/21	7.0	344	81		37	8.76	7.13	0.57	1700	1600
2010/11/17	7.3	267	54		37	1.99	3.56	1.19	800	800
SWARTKOPS RIVER AT VAN SCHALKWYK BRIDGE 2										
DATE	pH	EC	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/28	7.2	330	<10		53	12.7	7.96	0.36	112	76
2010/09/06	7.2	362	<10		49	10.7	12.2	0.24	102	74
2010/10/21	7.1	350	28		<20	6.71	6.33	0.18	790	540
2010/11/17	7.1	255	20		81	2.72	4.19	0.15	58	42
SWARTKOPS RIVER AT PERSEVERANCE BRIDGE (OLD BROKEN BRIDGE)										
DATE	pH	EC	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/28	7.6	401	14		30	0.87	8.56	2.65	1260	800
2010/09/06	8.2	431	30		46	0.20	9.12	0.85	362	136
2010/10/21	7.9	457	15		<20	0.30	4.70	1.17	92	71
2010/11/17	7.7	300	12		49	<0.08	3.49	3.24	40	36
ZWARTKOPS ESTAURY @ LAFARGE QUARRY										
DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/29	7.9	420	29		67	<0.08	8.16	1.93	210	200
2010/10/19	7.7	452	37		46	0.90	4.33	1.03	75	49
2010/11/15	8.5	321	23		34	0.20	2.65	0.25	92	46
ZWARTKOPS ESTUARY @GIRDLESTONE REDHOUSE										
DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/29	8.1	3900	211		844	0.12	1.83	0.59	76	70
2010/10/19	8.8	3280	118		577	0.50	2.31	0.65	1	1
2010/11/15	8.3	2610	78		391	0.33	1.44	0.11	4	4
ZWARTKOPS RIVER @ MOTHERWELL CANAL										
DATE	pH	COND	TSS	OA	COD	NH3	PO4	NO3	F.COL	E.coli
2010/07/29	8.0	2360	68		311	0.12	0.558	1.95	4900	3800
2010/10/19	8.3	1377	42		108	0.22	0.554	1.90	900	580
2010/11/15	8.1	2420	81		369	0.31	0.822	0.87	240	190