



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1402 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr Waters (DA) is attached for your consideration, please.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS L B HENDRICKS MP
MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1402

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 22 AUGUST 2008
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 24)

1402. Mr M Waters (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether the Swartspruit in the Kempton Park area has been tested for pollution; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be done; if so, (i) when was the last test conducted and (ii) what were the findings;
- (2) Whether any action has been taken against (a) the local authority and (b) local businesses for polluting the Swartspruit; if not, why not; if so, what action?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes. There is a monitoring programme in place for the Swartspruit / Rietvlei River. One monitoring point is located upstream of the Hartebeesfontein sewage works along the Bapsfontein road while the second point is situated downstream of the works along the Witkoppies dirt road.(i) The monitoring programme was implemented in the late 1980's and the latest set of samples was taken on 19 August 2008.
- (ii) The results of the latest samples are still pending. The samples are analyzed by an accredited laboratory for physical, chemical and microbiological constituents. The water quality of the Swartspruit (like streams in other urban areas) shows an increasing trend in sewage related pollutants (Total Suspended Solids, Total Dissolved Solids, Nitrates, Sulphates, E Coli and Faecal Coliforms). The main source of the pollutants is sewage spills in the Swartspruit catchment. The Hartebeesfontein sewage works is performing well and does not contribute to the problem.
- (2) Yes. (a) A compliance notice was sent to the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality to rectify a malfunctioning sewage pump station in Pomona (Kempton Park).
- (b)The Department engages with the municipalities, including Ekurhuleni, through the Hennops River Forum to identify the sources of pollution and requests them to respond as quickly as possible to deal with the sources of pollution, especially sewer spillages. A river clean up project has also been initiated on the Kaalspruit (a tributary of the Hennops) by the Department together with a Task Team from the Hennops River Forum to identify other causes of pollution, to clean up the river and to initiate further programmes to deal with pollution problems.