

PCSM: 2/10/09

6/2/06

(F)



**water affairs**  
Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Enquiries: N Mnukwa  
Telephone: 043-604-5402  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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REGISTRASIE  
PRIVAATSAK / PRIVATE B  
2009 -10- 05  
PRETORIA 0001  
REGISTRY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1191 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)  
DATE: 18/9/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED

*[Signature]*  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DATE: 01. 10. 2009

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1191

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 SEPTEMBER 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 16)

**1191. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of partially treated water that is being discharged from the uMthatha sewage treatment plant into the uMthatha River; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether a section 19(3) directive has been issued against the operator of the uMthatha sewage treatment plant in accordance with the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department is taking any steps to rehabilitate the uMthatha sewage treatment plant; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, My Department is aware of the partially treated effluent discharged from the Umthatha Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) into the Umthatha River. This discharge exceeds both chemical and microbiological limits of the General Standard, set for discharge to a water resource. The discharge is monitored on a monthly basis.
- (2) Yes, a pre-directive in terms of Section 19(3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) [the Act] was issued to OR Tambo District Municipality (as the responsible Water Services Authority for the area responsible for provision of water and sanitation services) on 23 October 2008 for non-compliance with the Act due to the state of the Umthatha WWTW, collector sewers and pump stations. The pre-directive instructed OR Tambo to submit a Plan of Action to rectify the issues of non-compliance.
- (3) Yes, My Department has made available an amount of R25 million from its Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme to restore the Umthatha WWTW. The contractor moved on-site in September 2009.

In addition to the above support, the Department through cooperative governance, was able to secure R10 million from Provincial Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to refurbish the sewage pump stations. Currently, the refurbishment is nearing completion. Further more, My Department and the Eastern Cape Provincial Government have committed to assist OR Tambo District Municipality in developing a far wider action plan that addresses rehabilitation, delivery, resource conservation, planning, technical & institutional capacity, and sustained management of water services.