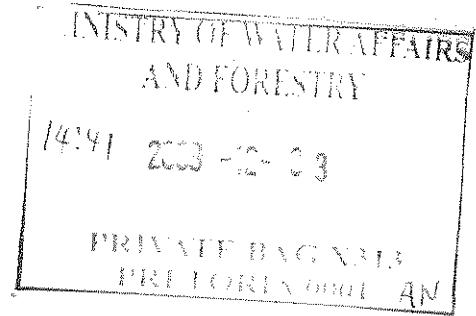




water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: P. Reddy
Telephone: 082 808 9927
Reference: 2/1/5/1
6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1365 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

2-12-09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

09/12/09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1365

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 SEPTEMBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 17)

1365. Mr G R Krumbock (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Somkhele Colliery in KwaZulu-Natal has a valid water licence; if not, what steps are taken to rectify this situation; if so, when was the licence issued;
- (2) whether any directives have been issued against the mine for non-compliance on any related matters with regard to the licence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) how many times have inspectors from her department visited the mine since 1 January 2009 to assess compliance and (b) what was the date of each visit?

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REPLY:

- (1) No. The mine does not have a valid water license. However, an integrated Water Use licence application (i.e. abstraction, storing water, impeding or diverting the flow of the river, altering the bed, banks, course and disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact a water resource) has been requested by the mine and My Department is currently processing it.
- (2) No directives were issued to the Somkhele Colliery in KwaZulu-Natal. In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 2002, the Department of Mineral Resources as the lead Authority, prior to the approval of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPR), has to consult with each Department, which administers an Act concerning the environment. To date no contraventions have been referred to My Department.
- (3)(a) No inspections were carried out by My Department since no contraventions of regulations have been reported by inspectors from the Department of Mineral Resources. However for good Governance My Department together with DMR work closely together to maximise time and resources. Water samples from the Umfolozi River are taken regularly and boreholes have been installed to monitor the impact on ground water.
- (3)(b) Falls away

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