



water affairs

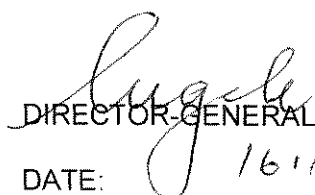
Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1559 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs D van der Walt (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR GENERAL (Acting)
DATE: 16/10/2009


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 25.10.2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1559

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 OCTOBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 20)

1559. Mrs D van der Walt (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has approved the pumping of water from the old Union Tin Mine in Mookgopong, Limpopo; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether the quality of water was tested prior to the construction of the pipeline; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether (a) an environmental impact assessment and (b) a feasibility study was done in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) What is the (a) financial cost of the project and (b) Mookgopong municipality's Blue Drop Certificate status?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, the pumping of water (*which should be a transfer of water entitlement*) from the Old Tin Mine is not approved by My Department. The Mookgopong Municipality has entered into a contract with Duikel Beleggings Pty Limited (*current water entitlement holder*) and no application has been submitted to My Department by the Municipality. However, the project for pipeline installation and the upgrading of the purification plant has been approved by My Department for Municipal Infrastructure Grant recommendation purposes.
- (2) Yes, the quality of water was tested in July and December 2007 and June 2009 and revealed good quality on all parameters with the exception of high iron and manganese as well as slightly elevated arsenic (refer to the table 1 below). However, with treatment (to remove iron and manganese), the water would be suitable for human consumption.

Table 1: Water quality results

Parameters (mg/l)	Sample		Recommended Water Quality Class (Class 1)	SANS 241- 2006
	July 2007	December 2007		
Iron (Fe)	10	11	0.5-1.0	0.2
Arsenic(As)	0.048	0.03	0.01-0.05	0.010
Manganese (Mn)	1.98	1.77	0.1-0.4	0.100

- (3)(a) An Environmental Impact Assessment was done and the Record of Decision has been issued the Limpopo Department of Economic Development and Tourism.
- (3)(b) The Feasibility study was also conducted.

- (4)(a) The cost of the upgrading of the pipeline from the Old Union Tin Mine is R5, 1 million. The amount for the pre-purification plant to extract the chemical content will only be determined during the detailed design stage by the engineers.
- (4)(b) Mookgopong Municipality's Blue Drop assessment was not done due to the fact that the Municipality did not submit required documents such as water safety plan, process control, monitoring programme, drinking water quality results, drinking failures response management, publication of drinking water quality performance, drinking water asset management for the assessment. Further, the Municipality had no representation during the assessment week. The Department is currently in the process of ensuring that the Municipality adhered to the requirements.

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