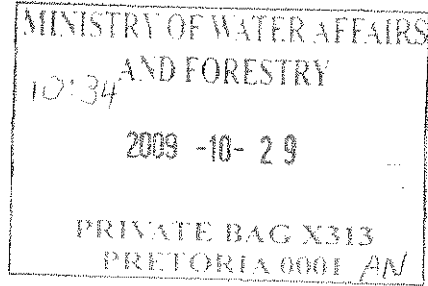




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: M Kadiaka
Telephone: 013-759-7313
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1923 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 28.10.09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 29/10/2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1923

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 OCTOBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 22)

1923. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of any functionality problems with the Lydenburg sewage treatment plant in the Thaba Chweu Municipality; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Dorps River, into which the sewage plant discharges its outflow, is regularly tested for the effect of the plant discharge on the river; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether this sewage plant is included in the Green Drop Report; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, My Department conducted a compliance audit to ascertain compliance with the conditions of the Water Use License of the sewage works on 1 July 2009. A notice of intention to issue a directive dated 16 September 2009 was issued in terms of section 53(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) based on the non-compliances identified during the compliance audit.

The non-compliances include:

- Failing to provide proof that the Ammonia reduction plan has been submitted;
- Failing to provide proof that the Orthophosphate reduction plan has been submitted;
- Failing to provide the calibration certificate for the flow meter;
- Failing to confirm that the Water Quality monitoring points are at the coordinates indicated on the issued license;
- Failing to provide proof that monthly reports are submitted to My Department;
- Failing to provide the classification certificates for the plant supervisor and the plant operator;
- Failure to put notices against using the effluent for drinking or washing at prominent places;
- Failure to provide proof that an annual audit conducted by an auditor has been conducted by the Municipality;
- Failure to provide water quality results to indicate compliance with the required water quality variables; and
- Failure to provide proof that the disposal of waste is done according to the guidelines prescribed in the document TT85/97 published by the Water Research Commission and titled "Permissible Utilization and Disposal of Sewage Sludge" edition 1 dated August 1997 addendum, 2002

The Municipality is expected to make representation on the issued notice. My Department will assess the representation on the issued notice and make a decision on the issuance of the directive. If the decision is to issue a directive and the Municipality consequently fails to comply with the said directive, then My Department and/ or any other stakeholder can pursue a criminal case against the Municipality.

- (2) Yes, My Department does monitor the water quality of the Dorps River. The details are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Monitoring Results

Variable	Location of monitoring point with reference to sewage works	March 2009	May 2009	July 2009	August 2009
Ortho phosphate (as P) in mg/L	Upstream	< 0.10	2.5	-	< 0.1
	Downstream	0.50	2.0	-	0.4
E. Coli (per 100 mL)	Upstream	> 1000	700	2419	-
	Downstream	138	400	1732	-

- (3) The Green Drop Report will be released shortly. This report will make public the general performance of the South African waste water fraternity including that of the sewage treatment plant(s) operated by the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.