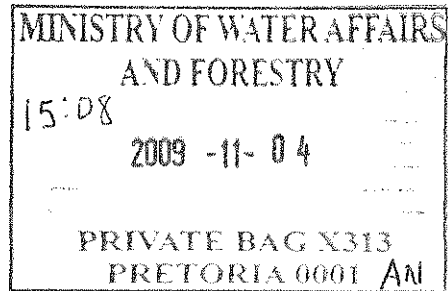




water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: H. Muller
Telephone: 012-336-6568
Reference: 6/2/2

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1961 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

Mugeli
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Act)

DATE: 03/11/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

B.P. Sonjica
MS B P SONJICA MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 03/11/09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1961

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

1961. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) Why do the standards for potable water differ from those required by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and (b) what was the reason for the decision to allow higher limits for certain parameters;
- (2) whether the standards will be amended to comply with guidelines as set by the WHO; if not, why not; if so, when?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Standards for potable water are determined by the South African Bureau Standards (SABS) which is then legislated through the compulsory national standards in terms of section 9 of the Water Services Act (Act 108 of 1997). The SABS continuously revises its code for Drinking Water Quality, namely SANS 241 to be in line with the latest Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality as published by the World Health Organisation (WHO). So the current SANS 241 is very well aligned with the previous WHO Guidelines of 2005 but less so with the latest 2008 WHO Guidelines.
- (1)(b) Since SABS process will always lag the WHO process, that is the reason why there is a difference to certain standard limits in the current SANS241 to the 2008 Guideline Values proposed by the WHO.
- (2) Yes since the WHO issued new guidelines in 2008 the SABS is again revising the SANS 241 code to keep up with this latest version of the WHO Guidelines. This new SANS 241 version is to be tabled with the SABS technical committee and then published for public comment.

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