

water affairs


Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2250 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

DATE: 7/12/09

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 2250

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 NOVEMBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 28)

2250. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What was the date of the last compliance audit to ascertain compliance with the conditions of the respective water use licences for the (a) Dassenhoek Sewage Works, (b) Hillcrest Sewage Works, (c) New Germany Sewage Works, (d) Fredville Sewage Works, (e) Sarnia Sewage Works and (f) Hammarsdale Sewage Works in the eThekweni Municipality;
- (2) Whether any of the above sewage works received a notice of intention to issue a directive in terms of section 53(1) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, based on any noncompliances identified during the respective compliance audits; if not, what is the position in this regard in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) Whether, for each of the said sewage works, proof was provided at the last compliance audit that the disposal of waste is done according to the guidelines prescribed by the Water Research Commission (details furnished); if not, (a) why not and (b) how will it be rectified; if so, what were the relevant compliance statistics?

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REPLY:

- (1) My Department follows a risk-based approach in addressing the non-compliance of Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs). This regulatory approach is meant to ensure that priority interventions are proactively made for plants where the highest risk on the receiving environment has been identified.

The Department's Regional Office: KwaZulu-Natal monitors 154 WWTWs in terms of compliance based on the following processes:

- WWTWs risk profiles (last assessment: May 2009)
- The annual Green Drop assessments, based on 11 criteria (August 2009)
- The annual Green Drop audits, based on 11 criteria (August 2009)
- Routine and ad hoc site inspections and compliance monitoring

Table 1 below reflects the risk profiles and Green Drop scores within the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality.

Table 1: Cumulative Risk Ratios (CRR) for a selected list of KwaZulu-Natal WWTWs

Number	Priority	Name of WWTW	Design Capacity of Plant (M/D)	Actual Flow Amount (M/D)	Flow Amount Exceeded / On and Below Capacity (M/D)	Number Of Non-Compliance Trends For The Various Parameters	Compliance (C) / Non-Compliance (NC) to Technical Skills	% Flow Amount Exceeded (M/D)	Design Capacity Rating (A) * Capacity Exceedance Rating (B) + Effluent failure rating [C] + Technical Skills Rating (D)	Cumulative Risk Rating [(A*B)+C+D]	Green Drop Score 2009
(1)(a)	12 2	Dassenhoek	0.6	1.28	-0.68	1	1	213	1*5+1+1	7	89%
(1)(b)	9 2	Hillcrest	1.2	0.75	0.45	4	2	63	1*3+4+2	9	71%
(1)(c)	10 6	New Germany	7	1.38	5.62	3	1	20	2*2+3+1	8	68%
(1)(d)	12 3	Fredville	2	1.1	0.9	3	1	55	1*3+3+1	7	59%
(1)(e)		Fallsaway									
(1)(f)	5 7	Hammarsdale	13	7.47	5.53	4	1	57	2*3+4+1	11	73%

The reasons for the relatively low risk profiles of the five WWTWs are as follows:

- They have reasonably low design capacities which reflect their quantum impact on receiving water resource;
 - Their inflow does not exceed their design capacity (with the exception of Dassenhoek, which is performing well within this constraint);
 - Their effluent quality complies with 5-8 out of the required 9 effluent quality determinants, (combined with the flow factor, the 'load is reasonably low); and
 - The technical skills of the process controllers and plant supervisors are rated as 'high' in terms of Regulation 2834.
- (2) No, as illustrated in Table 1 above, My Department does not consider the WWTW in question as priority in terms of non-compliance, and compliance enforcement is rather directed at works with Cumulative Risk Ratios (CRR) ratings of 18 and higher. Directives of non-compliance, supported by detailed scientific findings are being issued at such WWTWs, but regulatory activities are incrementally being implemented to those with a lower CRR.
- (3) Yes, it was confirmed during the audits of 2009 that eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality applies the relevant guidelines and standards in the management of all their works. However, the compliance of WWTW is measured against 'legal standards' and not 'guidelines'. The Department encourages municipalities to use guidelines to improve the performance of their works, but is not in a position to enforce such.