



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AFFAIRS
AND FORESTRY
2009 -12- 0 4
EP. PRIVATE BAG X313
PRETORIA 0001

Enquiries: N Mrukwa
Telephone: 043 604 5402
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

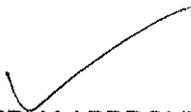
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2309 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

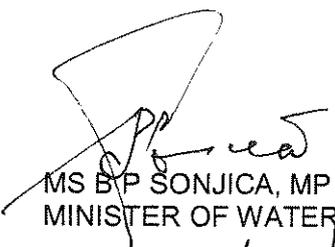
A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

3.12.09


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE:

08/12/09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2309

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 NOVEMBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 29)

2309. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed of any functionality problems at the Alicedale sewage treatment plant in the Makana Municipality; if so, (a) how will the problems be dealt with and (b) when;
- (2) Whether the Bushmans River into which the sewage plant discharges its outflow is regularly tested to assess 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?

NW3017E

---0000---

REPLY:

- (1)(a) Yes, My Department's Regional Office: Eastern Cape has been informed of the functionality problems at the Alicedale Sewage Treatment Plant in the Makana Municipality.

The plant services the Alicedale community and the nearby Bushman Sands Hotel.

At a meeting with the municipality My Department learned that the plant in question is operating beyond its design capacity. This is attributed to the connection of new houses, Bushman Sans Hotel, conversion of the bucket system to water borne sewage and the connection of French drains previously used in the area.

It was acknowledged that the long term solution to the problem would be to upgrade the plant subject to sourcing of funding and environmental authorisation. In the interim, the following measures were considered:

- Use of the effluent for irrigating of the Bushman Sands Hotel golf course as an alternative to abstracting water from the nearby river; and
- Diverting of the sewage from Bushman Sands Hotel by transporting it to the Grahamstown (Belmont Valley) Sewage Treatment Plant.

In addition, the municipality would conduct community awareness on the proper usage of waterborne sanitation facilities.

- (1)(b) The municipality has applied for the upgrading of the facility and a permission to commence with the Environmental Impact Assessment process was granted on 8 July 2009.

- (2) Yes, My Department conducts routine monitoring of the river and the monitoring programme which includes taking samples from downstream and upstream of the New Year's River. However the upstream point is dry since July due to the current drought.

Table 1 below reflects the latest results from the monitoring programme:

Table 1: Monitoring Results

Parameters	Location of monitoring point with reference to sewage works	July 2009	Aug 2009	Alicedale WwTW final pond – July 2009	Alicedale WwTW final pond – August 2009
Ortho phosphate (as P) in mg/L	Upstream	No flow	No flow	7.25	5.56
	Downstream	6.79	0.022		
E. Coli (per 100 mL)	Upstream	No flow	No flow	1 030	9 000
	Downstream	1 080	36		
Feacal Coliform	Upstream	No flow	No flow	930	18 400
	Downstream	800	40		
Nitrates / Nitrites	Upstream	No flow	No flow	0.74	0.79
	Downstream	2.54	0.8		
Suspended Solids	Upstream	No flow	No flow	-	78
	Downstream	-	86		
COD	Upstream	No flow	No flow	117	164
	Downstream	110	207		
Ammonia	Upstream	No flow	No flow	27.6	27.4
	Downstream	25.7	0.92		
Electrical Conductivity	Upstream	No flow	No flow	161	158
	Downstream	160	197		
Oxygen Absorbed	Upstream	No flow	No flow	-	10
	Downstream	-	25		
pH	Upstream	No flow	No flow	7.5	8.3
	Downstream	7.4	8.6		

- (3) Yes, the plant was included in the Green Drop Report and the average Green Drop Score attained as indicated in the report is 7%. Table 2 below reflects the Green Drop Score details:

Table 2: Green Drop Report Card

Criteria	Alicedale
Process Control, Maintenance & Management Skill	G
Monitoring Programme Efficiency	G
Credibility of Waste Water Sample Analysis	B
Regular Submission of Waste Water Quality Results to DWAF	G
Waste Water Quality Compliance	G
Waste Water Failures Response Management	G
Waste Water Treatment Works Capacity	G
Green Drop Score	7%