



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1023 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: 3/9/09

Correction ✓
~~DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED~~


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

DATE: 10.09/2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1023

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28 JUNE 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 11)

1023. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the water produced at the pilot plant producing potable water from effluent abstracted from the oxidation pond system in Alexandria in the Eastern Cape will be pumped directly into the town's water supply system; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether similar systems for the production of potable water from effluent are planned for other water-scarce areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, the pilot water recycling plant at Alexandria sewage oxidation ponds is not presently connected to the Alexandria Town's water reticulation system as the pilot plant is still undergoing evaluation and modification.
 - It is planned that a minimum of three months of intensive monitoring is required to confirm the reliable performance of the pilot system prior being connected directly into the town water system;
 - There is no special policy on authorizing the recycling of sewage water directly to potable water for human consumption; and
 - It is understood that sufficient funding has not yet been secured to construct the pipeline necessary to blend the recycled water in a fair manner.
- (2) The National Water Resource Strategy encourages the recycling and reuse of water and a number of Water Sector role players are watching the progress of the pilot plant with interest. However, there are no special plans to replicate the process on any large scale until the success of the Alexandria pilot plant has been tested.

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