



## water affairs

Department:  
Water and Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 303 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 (Act)

DATE: 3/9/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 12. 09. 2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 303

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 JULY 2009  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 5)

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

- (1) Whether she will close down the Vuna Colliery outside Middelburg which is operating without a water licence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she will enforce the rehabilitation of the areas affected by the mine; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No. I will not close down Vuna Mining outside Middleburg as the Minister of Minerals is the one that has the powers to grant or not to grant mining rights. A water use license application has been received, and my Department is currently processing the application. The mine is, in the meantime, expected to comply with Regulations 704 on the protection of water resources through the minimisation of pollution from mining related activities.
- (2) Yes. In instances where it is established that the mine has polluted the water resource, the Department will direct the mine to rehabilitate the affected water resource. The mine has an approved Environmental Management Programme (EMP) in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) from the Department of Minerals that outlines how the mine is going to rehabilitate the areas affected, including the water resource.