



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 323 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


Acting DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

9/9/09


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE:

13/09/09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 323

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

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

- (1) Whether all waste water treatment plants in South Africa have been issued with permits to allow the discharge of effluent into the environment; if not, why not;
- (2) whether relaxation of permitted discharge standards are reviewed regularly; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether compliance with permitted discharge standards is monitored; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what (a) are the details of noncompliance with discharge standards recorded during the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009 and (b) action has been taken against noncompliance with discharge standards?

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REPLY:

- (1) No. Not all the Waste Water Treatment Works have authorisations, usually due to the following reasons:
 - Application not meeting the requirements (inadequate information supplied, etc) for My Department to grant authorization;
 - Organisations and owners of Waste Water Treatment Works not having applied for the renewal of the authorisations to My Department in spite of regular follow-ups resulting in the issuing of pre-directives and directives in terms of Section 19 of the National Water Act 36 of 1998 .
 - Insufficient capacities in municipalities comply with the requirement in respect of compilation of the Water Quality Management Report which is a requirement in considering an application for authorisation of a Waste Water Treatment Works.
 - Failing infrastructure and inadequate capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Works to deal with the volume and load of the waste water therefore not meeting the requirements for authorisation.

- (2) Yes. My Department periodically reviews the National effluent discharge standards. In addition, the General and Special Standards contained in the General Authorisations are reviewed every five years and are currently under review.
- (3) Yes, Compliance Monitoring is done at discharge points of authorized Waste Discharge activities. Each water use authorisation contains conditions with regard to monitoring, e.g. parameters to be monitored and frequency of monitoring.
- (4)(a) Non-compliance with discharge standards ranges from non-compliance with variables not complying with effluent discharge standards, such as:
- E-coli, Phosphate, Ammonia and Nitrate balance as a result of for example ineffective disinfection procedures and process management ineffectiveness.
- (4)(b) My Department has taken actions by issuing notices, pre-directives and directives in respect of the non compliances in terms of Section 19 of the National Water Act No.36 of 1998.