



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 755 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Krumbock (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 25/8/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ ~~AMENDED~~


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

DATE: 2009. 09. 01

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 775

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 AUGUST 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 9)

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

- (1) Whether her department has conducted an investigation into the quality of water flowing out of the Rooiwal Power Station into the Apies River; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether her department has investigated the effect that the sewage treatment plant on the old Warmbath road is having on the Apies River; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any strategies are in place to monitor the general health of the Apies River; if not, why not; if so, what strategies?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes. This is done as part of the monthly monitoring programme conducted in the Apies River Catchment. The monitoring programme was implemented in the late 1980's and no significant pollution arose due to the Rooiwal Power Station.

However, the water quality of the Apies River (like other streams in urban areas) shows an increasing trend in sewage related pollutants (Chemical Oxygen Demand, Total Dissolved Solids, Ammonia-Nitrates, Phosphates and Faecal-Coli forms). The main source of the pollutants in the Apies River is rather from the Rooiwal Sewage Treatment Works. The problem was identified last year and communicated to the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. Operational plans were implemented to deal with immediate threats, while long terms plans are underway to rectify the infrastructural problems.
- (2) Yes, My Department appointed specialists to conduct a performance audit on the Rooiwal Sewage Treatment Works. This was done during November 2008 and the results of the audit were communicated to the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. The Municipality is in the process of upgrading the Rooiwal Sewage Treatment Works to address the problems that were identified
- (3) Yes, a monitoring program is in place. Samples are collected on a monthly basis and analyzed by an accredited laboratory for physical, chemical and microbiological constituents. Records are kept on the Departmental Water Management System (WMS).

This system is used to identify problems (such as in the case of the Rooiwal Sewage Treatment Works) and appropriate actions are taken to ensure the protection of the water resource.