water affairs
Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: J Van Aswegen
Telephone: 013 759 7490
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 124 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)
DATE: 17/2/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ ~~AMENDED~~

MS BP SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 21 · 02 · 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 124

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 FEBRUARY 2010 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1)

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

(1) Whether the head office of her department was involved in the granting of a water use licence to the Vuna Colliery in Mpumalanga on 9 December 2009; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why;

(2) whether the applicant re-applied for a water use licence following the initial negative recommendation by the regional office of her department on a water use licence for this mine; if so, what are the (a) reasons for the initial negative recommendations and (b) further relevant details;

(3) whether the applicant provided additional information following the initial negative recommendation in support of their application for a water use licence; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what was the nature of this further information;

(4) whether the granted water use licence contains a mitigation plan for the post-closure decant of acid mine drainage; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW132E

---00O00---

REPLY:

(1) Yes, the license was issued by My Department's Head Office as it met the minimum requirements for Water Use License applications.

(2) No, the applicant did not re-apply as this was not necessary.

(2)(a) No negative recommendations were issued. My Department's Regional Office: Mpumalanga only informed the applicant of the outstanding information which was required to enable further processing of the application. As mentioned above (i.e. (1)), the applicant subsequently complied with the minimum requirements of the application.

(2)(b) The information required was of a technical nature without which the processing of the application could not be concluded.

(3) Yes, the applicant submitted the following additional information as required:

- The extent of the wetland areas (delineation)
- The wetland's local and regional significance
- How the wetland areas function in relation to the broader catchment area
- Engineering details indicating measures to be implemented to effectively prevent pollution of the environment
- A concise design report and engineering details on pollution control dams and runoff mine (ROM) stockpile

(4) Yes, the license requires the licensee to submit to My Department an Integrated Water and Waste Management Plan (IWWMP) together with the Rehabilitation Strategy as well as an Implementation Programme (RSIP) on an annual basis. In addition, any amendments to the IWWMP, including a final closure plan must be submitted to My Department within 180 days prior to the intended mine closure. The post-closure decant of acid mine drainage is addressed in the Closure Strategy (not in the license), which is approved by the Department of Mineral Resources, and into which My Department provides inputs relating on water related aspects.

---00O00---

132

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Internal Ref Number: 148 - 2010

Submission Date: 8 February 2010

Question Asked By: Mr GR Morgan

Question Asked To: Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs

Question: 124

1. Whether, with reference to the water use licence granted to the Vuna Colliery in Mpumalanga province on 9 December 2009, the head office of the Department of Water Affairs was involved in granting this licence, if so, why, if not, why not;
2. Whether following the initial negative recommendation by the regional office of the Department of Water Affairs on a water use licence for this mine the applicant re-applied for a water use licence if so, what are the relevant details, if not, why not;
3. What were the reasons for the initial negative recommendation on the granting of a water use licence provided by the Department of Water Affairs to the applicant;
4. Whether the applicant provided additional information following the initial negative recommendation in support of their application for a water use licence, if so, what was the nature of this further information, if not, why not;
5. Whether the granted water use licence contains a mitigation plan for the post-closure decant of acid mine drainage, if so, what are the relevant details, if not, why not?

pp