MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -12- 15

PRIVATE BAG X313 PRETORIA 0001



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2/1/5/1

## MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3410 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 15/12/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010/12/14

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# **FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

### **QUESTION NO 3410**

# <u>DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 19 NOVEMBER 2010</u> (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38)

# 3410. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether a certain mining group (Muhanga Mines) has applied for a water use licence for their proposed mine at Wachtenbietjieskop; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the mine will be prevented from operating until it has a water use licence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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#### REPLY:

- (1) No, the Department has no record of an application for a water use licence for the proposed mine at Wachtenbietjieskop.
- (2) In terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) Muhanga Mines would not be allowed to use water without a water use authorisation. Unlawful use of water is an offence in terms of the National Water Act and action will be taken against any unlawful water use by the mine.

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