



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -05- 17

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1038 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Adv H C Schmidt (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 27/5/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 22/05/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1038

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 MARCH 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9)

1038. Adv H C Schmidt (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) In light of her reply to question 400 on 10 March 2010, what steps is her department taking against mining companies who do not comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Management Amendment Act, Act 62 of 2008, with regard to decanting water from the (a) Wesselton Mine (b) Coastal Fuels mines, (c) Sumo Colliery and (d) Umlaba Colliery (details furnished);
- (2) Whether the Eerstelingsfontein mine is decanting water; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) What steps are being taken to ensure that the mines are prevented from decanting water into the natural water systems and rivers? NW1184E

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REPLY:

- (1) The four mines were either in operations and/or closed prior the promulgation of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA). For such mines, the provision for regulating of decanting after closure was set as condition(s) in the erstwhile Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs' Environmental Management Project Reports (EMPRs) , as the previous Water Act, 1956 (Act No 54 of 1956) did not address decanting as a water use.

Please note that the National Environmental Management Amendment Act, Act 62 of 2008 ("NEMA") does provide for environmental issues resulting from mining, prospecting, production and related activities to be regulated in terms of NEMA in the future. Although the NEMA came into effect on 1 May 2009 there is still an amendment to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act ("MPRDA") that needs to come into effect in order for the provisions of the NEMA to commence. It is unclear when the amendment to the MPRDA will come into effect.

- (2) No, in accordance with my Department's site inspection carried out on 26 January 2010, the Eerstelingsfontein mine was not decanting water.
- (3) The Rehabilitation and Closure Strategy to be submitted by a mining company as stipulated for the Closure Phase of the specific mine, makes provision for the prevention of future decanting and/or the management thereof. My Department uses Section 19 of the NWA to control and/or prevent pollution of water resources. If there is a potential for decanting by a mine, my Department can issue a Section 19(3) notice to the mine for it to take the necessary measures that will prevent pollution. My Department conducts monthly water quality monitoring of the water resources to ascertain compliance.

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water affairs

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Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: J. van Aswegen
Telephone: 013-759 7490
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 400 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Adv H C Schmidt (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 5/3/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2010.03.09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 400

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4)

400. Adv H C Schmidt (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether the mining companies conducting mining operations (details furnished) (a) applied for a water permit, (b)(i) were approved and (ii) issued with and/or (c) were denied a water permit; if so, on what date did the listed individual and respective mining operations (aa) apply for, (bb) were issued with or (cc) denied a water permit;
- (2) whether any of the listed individual and respective mining operations submitted an environmental management programme (EMPR); if so, (a) for which of the listed mining operations (details furnished) has an EMPR been submitted and (b) on what date (i) was the EMPR approved and (ii) did the mining operations as listed commence?

NW473E

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Refer to Annexure A
- (1)(b)(i)
And
- (1)(b)(ii) Refer to Annexure A
- (1)(c) No mining company was denied a water use licence.
- (1)(aa) Refer to Annexure A
- (1)(bb) Refer to Annexure A
- (1)(cc) Refer to Annexure A
- (2) The Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) is the compliance requirement administered by the Department of Mineral Resources and it is therefore the appropriate Department to respond on this question.

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ANNEXURE A

Name of mining company	Application date	Status	Date issued/denied
Bank Colliery	June 2006	In process	N/A
GoedeHoop Colliery	April 2006	In process	N/A
Greenside Colliery	July 2004	In process	N/A
Isibonelo Colliery	2004	License issued	Dec 2008
Kleinkopje Colliery	November 2004	In process	N/A
Kriel Colliery	March 2009	In process	N/A
Landau Colliery	April 2008	In process	N/A
Mafube Colliery	January 2006	License issued	N/A
New Denmark Colliery	November 2007	In process	N/A
New Vaal Colliery	July 2004	In process	N/A
Elandsfontein Colliery	October 2009	In process	N/A
Golfview Colliery	November 2008	In process	N/A
Douglas Colliery	April 2006	License issued	October 2008
Middleburg Mine	September 2006	License issued	January 2010
Nkomati Anthracite	May 2008	In process	N/A
Khutala Colliery	January 2006	In process	N/A
Klipspruit Colliery	September 2002	License issued	April 2006
Klipspruit Colliery	September 2008	In process	N/A
Black wattle Colliery	March 2007	In process	N/A
Uitkomst Colliery	June 2006	In process	N/A
Khanyisa Colliery	N/A	No application received	N/A
Paardeplaats Colliery	N/A	No application received	N/A
Droogvallei Colliery	N/A	No application received	N/A
East Side Coal Company	January 2007	License issued	December 2009
Matla Colliery	July 2006	In process	N/A
Glisa Colliery	May 2006	In process	N/A
Arnot Colliery	N/A	No license application received	N/A
New Clydesdale Colliery	January 2008	In process	N/A
Grootegeuk Coal Mine	January 2010	In process	N/A
Leeuwpan Coal Mine	August 2006	In process	N/A
Tshikondeni Coal Mine	October 2008	License issued	January 2010

Name of mining company	Application date	Status	Date Issued/denied
Kendal Colliery	June 2008	In process	N/A
Northfield Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Kangra Coal (Pty) Ltd	February 2009	In process	N/A
Delmas Coal	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Savmore Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Ikhwezi Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Wesselton Mine	N/A	Mine is closing	N/A
Geluk Mine	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Mimosa Colliery	November 2007	In process	N/A
Optimum Colliery	April 2008	In process	N/A
Polmaise Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Ilanga Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Umlabu Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Sasol Mining Sigma IVULA	2006	In process	N/A
Sasol Mining- Sasol mine	August 2009	In process	N/A
Shanduka Graspan Colliery	November 2007	In process	N/A
Shanduka Leeuwfontein	July 2009	In process	N/A
Koornfontein Mines	April 2009	In process	N/A
Aviemore and Magdalena Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Eittheni Colliery	September 2008	License issued	July 2009
Springlake Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Stuart Coal	N/A	In process	N/A
Sudor Coal Halfgewonen	February 2007	In process	N/A
Sumo Coal Kopermyne Colliery	No	No licence application received	N/A
Total Coal Forzando Coal Mine	July 2007	In process	N/A
Total Coal Dorstfontein Colliery	July 2007	In process	N/A
Umcebo Colliery Doornrug Coal Mine	June 2007	In process	N/A
Kleinfontein Colliery	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Grootpan Colliery	February 2010	In process	N/A
Middelkraal Colliery	2007	In process	N/A
Mooifontein Colliery	September 2006	In process	N/A
Nowesco	N/A	No licence application received	N/A
Strathrae Colliery	April 2004	In process	N/A
Onverdacht Colliery	March 2007	License issued	December 2009
Bankfontein Colliery	October 2009	In process	N/A

Name of mining company	Application date	Status	Date issued/denied
Lake Side Colliery	July 2009	In process	N/A
Middleburg Townlands	February 2008	In process	N/A
Werm Mining Langkloof Colliery	May 2006	License issued	October 2008
Woestfallen Colliery	August 2003	License issued	2008
World Wide Coal Carolina Groenvallei Colliery	November 2009	In process	N/A
World Wide Coal Carolina Haarlem Colliery	November 2009	In process	N/A
Xstrata pic South Witbank Colliery	February 2002	In process	N/A
Xstrata pic Tavistock Colliery	February 2002	In process	N/A
Xstrata pic Arthur Taylor Colliery	June 2008	License issued	2009
Xstrata pic Arthur Taylor Colliery (Open Cast)	June 2008	In process	N/A
Xstrata pic Boschmans Colliery	May 2007	In process	N/A
Xstrata Pic Goedgevonden Waterpan	August 2006	In process	N/A
Xstrata pic Witcons Colliery	May 2007	In process	N/A
Spitzkop Colliery	August 2008	In process	N/A
Xstrata Tselentis	August 2007	In process	N/A

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