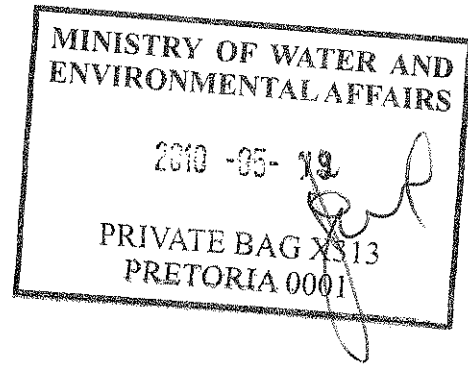




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA




Enquiries: B Mahlangu  
Telephone: 013-759-7317  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1373 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: 11/5/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 19.05.2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1373

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MAY 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)

1373. Mrs S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 252 on 2 March 2010, there has been any further improvement in the state of waste water treatment at the Thaba Chweu municipality following the directive issued on 28 September 2009; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she has been informed of any other incidents where sewage has leaked from sewerage infrastructure since the directive was issued; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the water quality data taken by my Department has shown improvements in the quality of the final effluent discharged into the Dorps River. As indicated within Table 1 below, there are considerable improvements in the pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). Orthophosphates (PO<sub>4</sub>) have improved but are still not complying with the license conditions. Levels of Nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>) and E-coli are still an area of concern as no improvements have taken place.

Table 1: Water Quality Results (January-April 2010)

Variables	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010	License Condition
pH in pH unit	6.9	6.97	7.38	6.70	5.5-7.5
EC in mS/m	49	55.8	36.1	45.5	75
COD in mg/l	36.1	52.6	9.6	24.1	30
NO <sub>3</sub> in mg/l	6.7	4.8	5.8	5.3	1.5
PO <sub>4</sub> in mg/l	7.2	7.5	1.7	2.5	1.0
E-coli in counts/100ml	2419	2419	201	Results not received from the Lab yet	0

My Department has not taken any further actions against the municipality as it was placed under provincial administration in terms of Section 139 (1) (b) of the Constitution and an Administrator was appointed. My Department is currently engaging the Administrator to ensure that the matter is attended to, and an indication has already been given by the Administrator that all the compliance gaps would be addressed.

- (2) Yes, there was an incident in December 2009 where a Pump Station overflowed, resulting in raw sewage flowing into the Marambane River which drains into Dorps River. On 13 April 2010, my Department issued a notice of intention to issue a directive in terms of Section 19 (3) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 1998). The municipality has not made any representations regarding measures to be put in place to control the incident, but my Department intends to address this matter as part of the ongoing engagements with the municipality through the appointed Administrator.