



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -05- 19

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1442 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: 18/5/10


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 1442

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 MAY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)

1442. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether a directive has been issued against the Grootvlei mine since her reply to question 872 on 5 May 2010; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) what were the relevant results of the water samples that were taken and (b) how do these results compare with the acceptable limits of discharge for water from mining operations?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, subsequent to the site inspections conducted by my Department during March 2010 as well as the taking of water samples, a pre-directive was issued on 14 April 2010 followed by a directive on 28 April 2010 instructing the mine to take measures to treat the underground mine water. As there has been no response from the mine, my Department is currently in the process of instituting legal action.
- (2)(a) The results of the water samples that were taken indicate that the quality of the water being discharged by the mine is not in compliance with the conditions stipulated in the water use license.
- (2)(b) The results of the water samples were compared with the conditions stipulated in the said water use license. The main concern was the non-compliance of Iron and Manganese which exceeded the maximum levels indicated in the license.

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