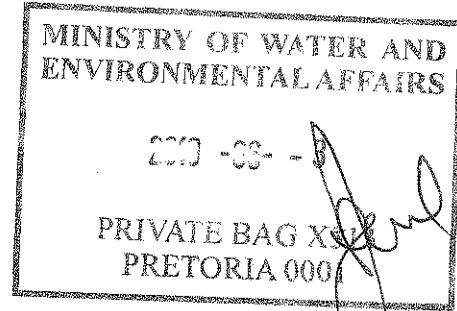




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: J van Aswegen
Telephone: 013-759-7490
Reference: 6/2/16

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1692 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 2/6/16


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 04. 06. 2016

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1692

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28 MAY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

1692. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any coal mining companies operating in Mpumalanga have been prosecuted for noncompliance with Regulation 9, relating to the temporary or permanent cessation of a mine or activity, of the Regulations on Use of Water for Mining and Related Activities Aimed at the Protection of Water Resources, Notice No 704, *Government Gazette* Vol. 408, No. 20119 of 4 June 1999 in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any action will be taken to ensure that the owners of abandoned coal mines in Mpumalanga comply with the above regulations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) No, there have been no coal mines prosecuted for noncompliance with Regulation 9. However, my Department has opened criminal cases against Xstrata Coal (Tselentis Colliery), Eastside mine and Grootpan mine (case numbers 35/11/2009, 27/10/2009 and 26/10/2009 respectively). These cases are still under investigation by the South African Police Service (SAPS).
- (2) No, there has been no action taken against the abandoned mines as they cannot be tracked. It should be noted that Regulation 704 is not applicable to the abandoned mines as they were closed before 1956 and the responsibility lies with the state (equally between my Department and the Department of Mineral Resources) to ensure that these mines are rehabilitated and do not pose pollution threats to the water resources.

My Department is in the process of developing a strategy to address the issue of acid mine drainage for both coal and gold mines.

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