



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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PRIVATE BAG X313  
PRETORIA 0001

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Reference: 16/2/7/1/1/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1828 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr I O Ollis (DA); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 18/6/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED 

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

DATE: 21. 06. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1828

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)

1828. Mr I O Ollis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What are the latest e-coli counts for the relevant measurement sites in the Braamfonteinspruit on the occasion of the last two testing done and (b) on what dates were these tests done;
- (2) whether the water quality of the Braamfonteinspruit met the standards set by her department; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, how was this conclusion reached;
- (3) whether any point source pollution into the (a) Braamfonteinspruit or (b) one of its immediate tributaries has been reported to her department since 1 January 2010; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether her department is assisting the City of Johannesburg to remedy the Braamfonteinspruit in any way; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether any (a) notices of intention to issue directives or (b) directives have been issued against any entity for polluting the (i) Braamfonteinspruit or (ii) one of its immediate tributaries since 1 January 2010; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1)(a) The latest E. coli counts on different sites in Braamfonteinspruit are as follows:

Table 1: Braamfonteinspruit Water Quality Results

Point	Description	March E-Coli count per 100ml	April E-Coli count per 100ml
DWJ 17	Rustenburg Road Park Hurst	5600	600
DW 18	Forest Farm Sandton	5200	12000
DWJ 19	Paulshof before confluence with Sandspruit	1000	9300
EC 1	Braamfonteinspruit Gas Works	3000	13000

- (1)(b) The tests were done in March and April 2010.
- (2) No, as indicated in Table 1 above, the water quality of the Braamfonteinspruit did not meet the standard set for recreational purposes. The tests count exceeded the 400 counts per 100 ml.
- (3)(a) No, there have been no point sources of pollution reported to my Department into the Braamfonteinspruit.

- (3)(b) No, there have been no point sources of pollution reported to my Department into any of the Braamfonteinspruit tributaries.
- (4) My Department is in general, assisting the City of Johannesburg to prevent pollution. Most of the diffuse pollution in the City of Johannesburg emanate from sewer spillages. To reduce this pollution, a turn around time has been agreed with Johannesburg Water to address the spillages as follows:
- Sewer: Clear Mains Blockages - 24 hours
  - Sewer: Replace Missing Manhole Covers - 24 hours
  - Sewer: Provide Vacuum Tanker Services - 4 days

In cases where the turn around times are not met and no reasonable explanations are given, my Department issues directives to Johannesburg Water to ensure that such spillages, that cause diffuse pollution, are dealt with promptly. Where there are persistent blockages, Johannesburg Water will investigate the cause of the problem taking any infrastructure capacity issues into account. Where capacity is found to be a problem, remedial measures are recommended.

- (5) No, directives or notices of intention to issue directives have not been issued to any entity for polluting the Braamfonteinspruit or its tributaries.

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