



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2058 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr M J Ellis (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

26/8/10


DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE:

27/08/2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2058

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 AUGUST 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19)

2058. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 1602 on 8 June 2010, she has been informed that a certain mine (name furnished) at Brakfontein has been abandoned in November 2009 prior to a valid water licence being issued; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (2) whether she will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether any action will be taken against this mine for operating without a water licence; if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (4) how will her department (a) handle the closure of the mine considering that no water licence had been issued at the date that the mine was abandoned and (b) be able to (i) issue directives or (ii) bring criminal charges against the mine;
- (5) what (a) was the date of the last inspection of the mine by officials of her department and (b) are the (i) names and (ii) designations of the persons who conducted the inspection?

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REPLY:

- (1) Neither I nor my Department was informed of the alleged abandonment and/or intended closure of the mine.
- (2) Yes, my Department is investigating this matter with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).
- (3) Yes, my Department will take action but the specific action will depend on the outcome of the investigation.
- (4)(a) It is impossible to disclose details of specific actions before the investigation has been completed. My Department may consider making use of section 19 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) with regards to the issuance of a directive. My Department also co-operates with the DMR with regards to applications made by mines for closure in pursuance of closure certificates.
- (4)(b)(i)
and
- (4)(b)(ii) Again in this case it will be premature to mention details of future actions before the investigation as well as consultations with DMR have been finalised.
- (5)(a) The last inspection of the mine by officials of my Department happened on 10 August 2010.
- (5)(b)(i) The official was Mr. Jacob Malesa.
- (5)(b)(ii) Mr Malesa is a Senior Water Pollution Control Officer.

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