



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010 -12- 02

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3056 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: *1/12/2010*

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS B E M MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: *2010/12/14*

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3056

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 29 OCTOBER 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 34)

3056. Mrs S V Kalyan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of any incidents of spillage from sewage settlement dams into the Armenia Dam from which the community of Thaba Patchoa in the Mantsopa Municipality draw their drinking water; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (2) Whether she will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether she has taken any steps to ensure that the municipality rectifies the situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) Whether water that is drawn from the Armenia Dam comply with the required drinking water quality standards; if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps will she take to rectify the situation; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Department has been informed of the spillage incidents from the sewage settlement dams into the Armenia Dam. Subsequent to being advised of such incidents, the Department conducted a site investigation and the findings report was sent to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and the Mantsopa Local Municipality (LM) in the Free State Province.

As part of the report, the following recommendations were made to the Mantsopa LM:

- Temporary oxidation ponds need to be constructed and that all the ponds in the area need to be lined to the depth of at least 300 mm to prevent any spillages and contamination of ground water.
- The Mantsopa LM need to address the issue of effluent from the oxidation pond contaminating Armenia Dam which is the source of water for Hobhouse and Thaba Phatchoa. The oxidation ponds are located adjacent to Armenia Dam and any new developments or major rehabilitation need to comply with the dam safety regulations and effluent discharge regulations.
- Developments should be located outside the dam's high flood level.

It should be noted that the Mantsopa LM has since applied for Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding for the upgrading of the Thaba Phatchoa Oxidation Ponds and a business plan (accompanied with a technical report) has been assessed by the (Free State Province) Regional Business Plan Appraisal Committee comprising of my Department, provincial Departments of Environmental Affairs, Human Settlement, CoGTA and Municipalities (the latter are invited during their projects' presentation).

- (2) As indicated in 1 above, the Department conducted an investigation of the matter and a report was communicated to the provincial CoGTA and the Mantsopa LM.

- (3) Yes, as indicated in 1 above, the Department has informed the Mantsopa LM on actions needed to rectify the situation. Further, my Department (in collaboration with CoGTA) is currently assisting the Mantsopa LM with the MIG application to rectify the sewage challenges. As part of the appraisal, it was recommended that the Mantsopa LM should implement the upgrading of the ponds in five phases (Phases 1 to 5) over a single financial year to address the following:
- Inlet Works
 - Anaerobic Pond no.1 and Effluent Dosing Facility
 - Anaerobic Pond no.2
 - Facultative Pond
 - Drying Beds and Effluent Recirculation System
 - Recirculation and drying beds are considered long term requirements.

In line with the appraisal comments, the Mantsopa LM will have to review its project business plan to include the recommendations and then re-submit to MIG for registration.

- (4) Yes, the water sampling results taken by the Department on a quarterly basis and the Mantsopa LM on a monthly basis confirm that the water drawn from the Armenia Dam complies with the drinking water quality standards.

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