



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 539 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: 10/3/2010

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED →

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

DATE: 2010. 03. 12

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 539

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 05 MARCH 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6)

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

Whether, with reference to her reply to question 124 on 22 February 2010, the deliberations on whether or not to issue a water licence to a certain colliery (name furnished) took into account the (a) efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest, (b) socioeconomic impact of the use of water by the mine, (c) likely effect of the water use to be authorised on the (i) water resource and (ii) other water users, (d)(i) class and (ii) resource quality objectives of the water source and (e) the quality of the water resource which may be required for (i) the reserve and (ii) meeting international obligations; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case? NW653E

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**REPLY:**

- (a) Yes, Vuna Colliery has designed the mining operation such that as little water as possible is used during the life of the mine and in compliance with minimum requirements for the efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest.
- (b) Yes, the mine will contribute to the local economy through the provision of a number of employment and income generating opportunities for local suppliers.
- (c)(i) Yes, the Water Use will have no effect on the Water Resource as the mine will comply with legislative requirements.
- (c)(ii) Yes, considerations made indicated that the utilisation of water by the mine will have no effect on other Water Users
- (d)(i) Yes, the use of water for the mining operation in the class D is permitted. The mine has however committed to adhering to mitigation measures in order to ensure class D is maintained.
- (d)(ii) Yes, the Resource Quality objectives were considered before the Water Use Licence was issued.
- (e)(i) Yes, the Water Quality component of the reserve permitted the use of water for the mining activity.
- (e)(ii) Yes, Vuna Collieries is situated in the Olifants Catchment and the Olifants is an International River, thus when the Water Use License was issued, International Obligations were taken into account.

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