



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2010-04-12

PRIVATE BAG X313  
PRETORIA 0001

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 966 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:

9/4/10

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

13. 04. 2010

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 966

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30 MARCH 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9)

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

- (1) Whether she has been informed of any functionality problems at the Barkly East sewage treatment plant in the Senqu Municipality; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) how will the problems be addressed;
- (2) whether water resources into which the sewage treatment works in Barkly East discharges are monitored regularly; if not, why not; if so, what have the results of this monitoring shown;
- (3) whether her department has issued any notices to the Senqu Municipality in terms of section 19(3) the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, since 1 January 2008; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether, with reference to the regulations for the erection, enlargement, operation and registration of water care works published under No. R. 2834 of 27 December 1985, all water care works in the Senqu Municipality comply with the minimum requirements with regard to staff (a) complement, (b) educational qualifications and (c) experience; if not, (i) which water care works do not comply with the requirements and (ii) what are the details of the noncompliance in each case;
- (5) whether this sewage treatment plant is included in the Green Drop report; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the assessment? NW1109E

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**REPLY:**

- (1) No, my Department has not been informed of any functionality problems at the Barkly East sewage treatment plant in the Senqu Municipality. My Department is however in the process of investigating this matter.
  - (1)(a) Falls away.
  - (1)(b) Falls away.
- (2) No, the local river is not monitored by my Department due to the fact that the existing plant is an oxidation pond system therefore no effluent discharge is allowed.
- (3) No, my Department has not issued notices to the Senqu Municipality due to the fact that no pollution related problems were brought to its attention. If the sewerage plant is indeed polluting the river, my Department will ensure that the municipality puts in place mechanisms to rectify the situation in terms of the plant functionality and operation. My Department will then put into place monitoring systems to ensure that interventions are sustainable. If the above interventions do not yield the desired results, my Department will issue directives.

- (4) Although staffed, not all of the water care works comply with the minimum requirements with regard to staff compliment. The details of the non-compliances could not be confirmed by the municipality within the limited time frame of responding to national assembly question. More information will be sought in the planned investigation.
- (5) Yes, the WWTWs were included in the Green Drop assessment; however, the Green Drop Report has not yet been released.

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