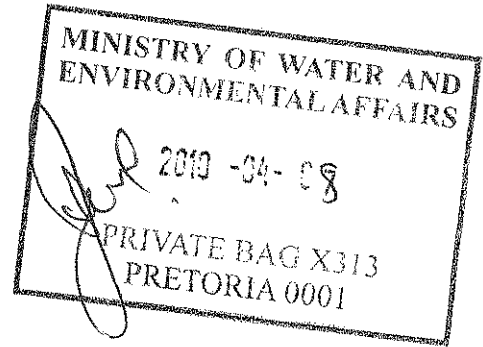




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: H Smit
Telephone: 012-392 1301-
Reference: 16/2/7/2/20

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 983 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 6/4/10

✓
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 983

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

983. Ms A M Dreyer (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether, with reference to her reply to question 386 on 3 March 2010, any emergency measures have been put in place pending the outcome of the public-private partnership that is being considered with mining companies to manage acid mine water drainage in the area; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1126E

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REPLY:

Yes, on the 12 March 2010, my Department approved R 6 900 000 (over a three month period) for the two mining companies concerned. This emergency intervention measure will address the current acid mine drainage decant in the West Rand by allowing the mines to operate their treatment plants at maximal output. Provided that the rainfall abates, it is predicted that the situation will be brought under control within about 8 weeks.

The emergency measures entail the retention of decanting acid mine drainage in containment facilities for processing at their water treatment plants. Any decanting acid mine drainage that cannot be contained in such facilities, it is dosed with lime to adjust the pH value to within a tolerable range, and precipitate some of the solubilised pollutants. An appreciable volume of the precipitated pollutants are subsequently retarded within the artificial wetland system located on mine property, affording some benefit to the quality of water that enters the Tweelopies Spruit.

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