



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 COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 235 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr D A Worth (DA-FS); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/6/16

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 08 . 06 . 2016

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 235

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 04 JUNE 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

235. Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) whether, in view of the closure of mines in the Matjhabeng area, any tests for acid mine water will be carried out in the near future; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) who will be held responsible for any future rehabilitation costs in case acid mine water is found after the transfer of ownership has taken place? CW306E

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the license conditions of the mines stipulate that monitoring of water must take place at all times i.e. during and post operating phases. Harmony Gold and Goldfields as the gold mines operating in the Free State Province conduct their ground and surface water monitoring on a monthly basis and pollution (if any) will be detected with the sampling methods utilised.

It should be noted as per licence conditions, the mines have a responsibility to conduct monitoring and forward the results to my Department on a quarterly basis. From time to time, my Department also conducts spot monitoring.
- (2) The responsibility with regards to closure of mine lies with the mine owners. Trust funds are placed with the Department Mineral Resources (DMR) to ensure that rehabilitation takes place and that monitoring of surface and ground water takes place after closure of transfer of the mine. Inspections and audits are conducted to ensure compliance by my Department and DMR.

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