



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 1065 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr G R Morgan (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 30/3/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 21-4-2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1065

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9 NW1183E

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 March 2011

Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, regarding the current applications for gas exploration, she or her department has had any formal interactions with (a) Petroleum Agency SA (Pasa) or (b) the Department of Mineral Resources; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether her department has formally registered as an interested and affected party in any of the public consultation processes attached to applications for gas exploration rights; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her department has undertaken any further studies into the use of hydraulic fracking in the oil and gas industry and its possible effects on the availability and quality of water; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Mr G R Morgan (DA)

SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT

HANSARD

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1065. THE MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ANSWERS:

- (1) The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has had no formal interaction with Petroleum Agency SA (PASA) or Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) regarding the gas exploration matter. The DEA has however been requested by PASA to comment on an Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) for a seismic survey to determine the viability of further exploration for shale gas deposits in the Karoo.
- (2) The DEA, being a competent authority in respect of authorisation of activities listed in terms of the Regulations 2010, GN R. 544, 545 and 546, does not register as an interested and affected party in any applications for authorisation in terms of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). In terms of cooperative governance, other organs of State may however request comments from DEA on specific applications.
- (3) The Department of water Affairs (DWA) has not undertaken any further studies into the use of hydraulic fracking in the oil and gas industry and its possible effects on the availability and quality of water. However, the department is concerned about the impact the fracking process will have on both the quality and quantity of groundwater in the Karoo which is the sole source of water for the users in this dry part of the country. We will therefore look at these matters as Water Affairs when the licence for water is applied for.

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