



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Enquiries: A Masefield
Telephone: 083 635 6247
Reference: 21/15/P/5

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1132 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr G R Krumbok (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 7/04/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 9/05/11

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1132

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 APRIL 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10)

1132. Mr G R Krumbock (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of any sewage spills into the Mooi River within the jurisdiction of the Umgungundlovu District Municipality; if so, what is being done to curb these spills; if not,
- (2) whether her department will investigate these spills; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) what are the results of the analysed water samples that were taken from this river since 1 June 2010 and (b) who is responsible for the monitoring thereof;
- (4) whether (a) any (i) pre-compliance notices, (ii) directives or (iii) criminal charges have been laid against the district municipality for any transgressions of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, and (b) all waste water treatment plants within this district municipality will be included in the next published edition of the Green Drop Report; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details, in each case;
- (5) to what extent does each waste water treatment plant within this district municipality comply with (a) its own design capacity and (b) effluent discharge standards? NW1255E

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REPLY:

- (1) Upon notification of the sewage spills in December 2009, the Department conducted various inspections (on 18 December 2009, 29 January 2010, 15 March 2010, 26 April 2010 and 21 June 2010) in the area to determine the causes. The findings indicate that the wastewater treatment works is hydraulically overloaded during periods of rainfall due to storm water ingress and that blockages and overflows are also occurring at the pump stations. The Department further conducts monthly monitoring along the Mooi River and the Umgungundlovu District Municipality is informed of the spillages on occurrence and subsequent clean up is undertaken.

It should be noted that as part of the Department's Compliance Enforcement Protocol, public institutions are notified of their non compliance and supported to improve processes to achieve compliance. The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is closely involved in implementing turn around strategies at municipalities to address institutional shortcomings.

- (2) Refer to (1) above.

(3)(a) Table 1 below reflects the results of the Mooi River downstream of the Mooi River wastewater works:

Table 1: Water quality results

Determinant	Units	15-Jul	24-Aug	17-Sep	14-Oct	12-Nov	17-Dec	24-Jan	10-Feb
Ammonia	mg/l	2.68	<0.08	0.27	0.86	0.74	0.32	1.19	1.06
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg O2/l	24	26	<20	<20	36	25	24	<20
Conductivity	mS/m	15	44	40	70	74	10	15	65
Orthophosphate	mg P/l	0.555	0.066	0.2	0.351	0.841	0.019	0.746	1.33
Oxygen Absorbed	mg O2/l	1	2	1	3	4	2	1	4
pH at 25	pH units	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.7	7	7.6
Suspended Solids	mg/l	21	36	10	<10	16	61	<10	<10

(3)(b) The Department is responsible for the monitoring the water quality of the river.

(4) No pre-notice or directives have been issued and/or criminal charges laid as the Department is following the Compliance Enforcement Protocol, where public institutions are notified of their non compliance and supported to improve processes to achieve compliance. The Umgungundlovu District Municipality has responded to notifications of the spills and implemented clean-up measures, and is taking action to improve the operation of their wastewater systems.

(4)(b) Yes, all the municipal wastewater works (ie Howick, Richmond, Camperdown, Coolair and Appelbosch) within the Umgungundlovu District Municipality will be included in the next edition (2010) Green Drop report.

(5)(a) Table 2 below reflects the design and operating capacities for each of the wastewater treatment works:

Table 2: Capacity of the wastewater treatment works

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Works	Design capacity (Mg/day)	Operating capacity (Mg/day)
Mooiriver	3.52	2.7
Howick	6.8	5.5
Richamond	2	0.92
Camperdown	1.5	0.02
Coolair	1.5	0.9
Appelbosch	0.5	0.08

(5)(b) Table 3 below reflects the percentage compliance with the effluent discharge standards for the 12 month period which ended in July 2010:

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Works	Microbiological (%)	Chemical (%)	Physical (%)
Mooiriver	45.5	54.5	87.5
Howick	16.98	90.18	87.5
Richamond	90	90	96.67
Camperdown	77.8	100	100
Coolair	90.9	98.18	100
Appelbosch	100	80	100

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