



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -05- -3

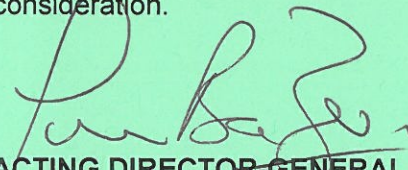
PRIVATE BAG 113
PRETORIA 0001

Enquiries: A Matukane
Telephone: 082 807 5643
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

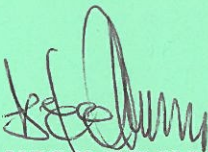
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1267 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 29/04/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



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

DATE: 9.5.2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1267

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15 APRIL 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

1267. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) On what date was the Vele Colliery awarded a water use licence, (b) which office of her department awarded the licence and (c) what amount of water is the Vele Colliery expected to use in its operations;
- (2) whether the application for the water use licence has underestimated the amount of water that the Vele Colliery expects to use; if not, what steps will be taken to rectify the situation; if so, how was this conclusion reached;
- (3) whether there is sufficient water in the catchment from which the Vele Colliery intends withdrawing water for its operations to satisfy its demands; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how was this conclusion reached;
- (4) whether her department, in granting the water use licence, has taken into account the effect of the mining operations on the Limpopo river which is a shared water course with Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) The Vele Colliery Integrated Water Use License was issued by the Department on 29 March 2011.
- (1)(b) The license was issued by the Accounting Officer of the Department due to the fact that sector transfers (i.e. transfer of water allocation from agriculture sector to mining sector) delegation that forms part of the license.
- (1)(c) The license authorises the following activities:
 - The taking of water from borehole amounting to 2 452 800 cubic metres per annum (m³/a)
 - The dewatering and reuse of 109 500 m³/a.
- (2) The applicant conducted a specialist study that deals with the Process and Engineering Design Basis Water Supply and Management which quantified the total water demand of the project and the applicant utilised such information to apply for the quantity of water required for phase 1 of the development.
- (3) The farm which has been purchased by the Vele Colliery (Portion 3, 4 and 5 of Overvlakte 125 MS) had (irrigation) water allocation from the Limpopo River amounting to 3.3 Mm³/a and borehole water amounting to 5.1526 Mm³/a. The water use authorisation issued on 29 March 2011 was therefore about water transferred from agriculture to mining, and this did not required additional allocation from the catchment.

- (4) The Department has taken into consideration the effect of the mining operation on the Limpopo River which is a shared water course with Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique. The impact prediction that was conducted by the mine was subjected to an independent review which concluded that proposed action plan (and commitments by Limpopo Coal Company) will address the identified shortcomings of the geochemical specialist work in support of the license application. As part of the licence condition to keep up with the South African Development Communities protocol, the mine is required to immediately notify the Department's Regional Head: Limpopo in case of any emergency to the Limpopo River or ground water in the vicinity of the mine operation area.

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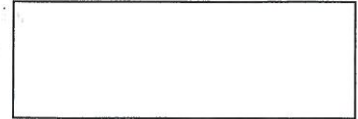


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 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIR: PC & SM

19 APR 2011

RECEIVED



ROUTE FORM

BRANCH: REGIONS

Reference: 6/2/2/6

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1267 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

DRAFTING OFFICIAL		SUPERVISOR	
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Rank:	Date:	Rank:	Date:

Rank	Date	Initials	Office No		Rank	Date	Initials	Office No	
AD:				▼	AD: <i>pcasm</i>	<i>19/4</i>	<i>AC</i>	<i>5960</i>	▲
DD:				▼	DD:				▲
D:				▼	D:				▲
CD:				▼	CD:				▲
D: SS	<i>19/4</i>	<i>Mr</i>	<i>923</i>	▼	CFO/DDG:				▲
DDG:Regions				▼	D: SS				▲
CFO				▼	CFO*/D:LS*				▲
D:ES				▼	COO				▲
COO				▼	D: ES				▲

* In the case of financial/legal issues

Language Practitioner: Signature
 Date:

▼ *Mr DG* *19/4/2011* ▲

▼ **MINISTER** ▲

Signed 9/5/2011

INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: WATER AFFAIRS