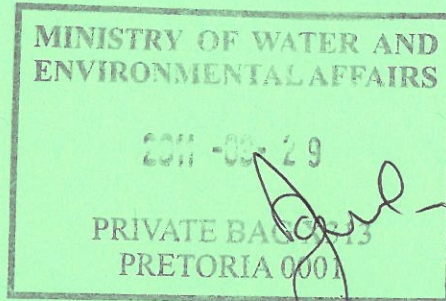




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

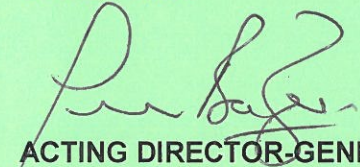


Enquiries: Mr M. Matlala
Telephone: 012-336-7860
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

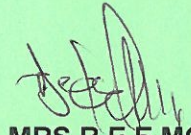
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 574 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr I O Davidson (DA); is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 29/03/2011.

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ^{as} ✓


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

DATE: 29-3-2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 574

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MARCH 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)

574. Mr I O Davidson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Why does the National Ecosystem Health Monitoring Programme (NAEHMP) not include the monitoring of dams;
- (2) whether there are any plans for the NAEHMP to include the monitoring of dams; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there are any other programmes similar to the NAEHMP that cover the monitoring of dams; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW477E

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REPLY:

- (1) The National Ecosystem Health Monitoring Programme (NAEHMP) is currently only focusing on the ecological assessment of rivers and wetlands. In addition, the ecological indices being used for determining ecosystem health are specifically designed for South African rivers and wetlands and will not be applicable to dams as such.

As the monitoring of dams may require more resources, both human and financial, an appropriate monitoring programme model for dams will first have to be investigated.

- (2) The Department has started investigations into international methods used for the assessment of dams that can be adapted for South African conditions. However, the implementation of ecological monitoring of dams in a similar fashion to that for rivers may only be implemented in a few years time.
- (3) Although not similar, the Department is responsible for the implementation of the National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme (NEMP), which monitors the trophic status of 78 identified dams across the country on a monthly basis. The NEMP focuses on nutrient concentrations, chlorophyll concentration and algal community composition, and not necessarily on the ecosystem as a whole. However, the data from the NEMP can and will be used once a system as alluded in (2) above has been finalised.

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