



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011 -03- 29

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PRETORIA 0001

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**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1055 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M H Steele (DA) is attached for your consideration.

**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 29/03/2011

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

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

DATE: 29-3-2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1055

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MARCH 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 09)

**1055. Mr M H Steele (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

In respect of the 2009-10 annual report (details furnished), what (a) are the details of the actions being taken with regard to a bulk water transfer from the Thukela to the Mgeni system, (b) are the anticipated (aa) costs and (bb) benefits and (c) is the projected time frame for the delivery of this project?

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**REPLY:**

- (a) The Umgeni Water Board as the bulk water service provider is leading the planning for a project. This scheme is planned to abstract water from the lower reaches of the Thukela River, for treatment at a regional water treatment plant situated in close proximity. Potable water will be delivered southwards to local developments and rural communities and will link into the existing North Coast Supply System. Potable water will also be delivered northwards to the Mandini Municipality to support development. The project will include:
- an abstraction works on the uThukela river
  - a 110ML/day treatment plant to be constructed in two modules of 55 megaliters per day each
  - bulk rising and gravity mains to supply the treated water both north and south into iLembe District Municipality and eThekweni Metro areas
- (b)(aa) The anticipated cost of the project is currently estimated at R660 million. This cost will be confirmed on completion of the detailed planning and design of the project.
- (b)(bb) The project will provide an initial additional 55 megaliters a day of water into the existing Umgeni/Umhloti Supply system supplying the KwaDukuza Town, the coastal area, numerous housing developments and commerce and industry in the area.
- (c) The detailed feasibility / preliminary design have been undertaken for the project. The status of the components of the study are detailed below:

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>
Options analysis	Complete
Geotechnical and cathodic protection surveys	Complete
Physical Model study and site optimisation	Complete
Weir, abstraction and de-silting works – location, size and configuration	Complete
Water treatment works – location and configuration	Complete
Pipelines, Pump stations and Reservoirs – location and sizing	To be confirmed with Environmental Consultant
The draft feasibility / preliminary design report	Will be completed in March 2011
Design consultants to be appointed to undertake the design of the scheme	May 2011
The Environmental Impact Assessment expected to be submitted to Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs	July 2011

The Minister in partnership with the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has scheduled a meeting (for 31 March 2011) with the technical teams of the relevant departments and Umgeni Water to find ways of speeding up water delivery.

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