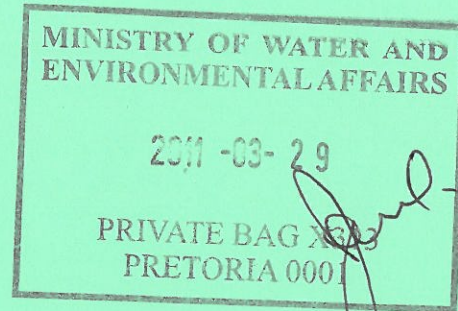




## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: H Smit  
Telephone: 012 392 1302  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 260 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 28/03/2011

### 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 260

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 FEBRUARY 2011  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 02)

**260. Mr M J Ellis (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the fish kills in the Blaaubankspruit that occurred within the first two weeks of January 2011; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (2) whether she will investigate whether the current increase in the decant of acid mine drainage on the West Rand is the cause of the specified fish kills; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW281E

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**REPLY**

- (1) Yes, on 13 January 2011, a fish kill incident was reported to the Department's Regional Office: Gauteng. Upon investigating the matter on the same day, large carp (*Cyprinus* sp.) were found dead in a private dam on the farm Sterkfontein in the Krugersdorp area. The dam receives water from the Blaauwbank Spruit.
- (2) Yes, water samples from the dam were analysed on 13 January 2011 and the results showed elevated levels of nitrates and ammonia. These conditions are known to be detrimental to fish health as it depletes the oxygen level in the water. Ammonia and nitrate are strongly associated with sewage effluent and the elevated levels may therefore be linked to a sub-standard discharge from the Percy Stewart Wastewater Treatment Works into the Blaauwbank Spruit (upstream of the dam) which is currently being upgraded. The impact of acid mine drainage is therefore not considered as the cause of the fish kill.

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