



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

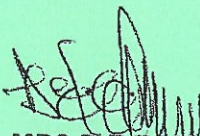
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3669 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question by Mr M Swart (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

the amended version
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 2011/12/12

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 3669

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 NOVEMBER 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 40)

3669. Mr M Swart (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has issued licences for (a) the extraction of water from the Malgas River and (b) raising the spillway at the Garden Route Dam in George; if not, in each case, (i) why not, (ii) when will the licence be issued and (iii) what is the position with regard to the funds that had been allocated for this purpose; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

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REPLY:

(a) No, the Department has not issued a water use licence for the abstraction of water from the Malgas River due to the following reasons:

- The issuing of the water use licence is dependent on issuance of a positive Records of Decision from the Department of Environmental Affairs.
- The Department of Water Affairs (the Department) still has to finalise the Comprehensive Reserve of the Resource Directed Measures of the Outeniqua Coastal River Systems, including the Malgas River.
- Facilitation and Mitigation of Existing Lawful Downstream Water Users appeal against the licence application as submitted regarding the proposed abstraction rates and timing of such abstraction.

To enable long term sustainable use and development for the applicant whilst conserving and protecting the downstream environment, (natural - river ecosystem and estuary and human) the conclusion of the above reasons is key to issuing of the licence.

The water use licence will only be issued upon the finalisation of the information mentioned in (a)(i) above. As part of the Drought Intervention in the Southern Cape amidst the severe climate variation (worst drought occurrence of 1:130 years) between January 2009 and January 2011, the Department's approved R35.5 million for the construction of the Malgas Pump Station through the Department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant funding over the fiscal years 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 to augment the George Local Municipality bulk infrastructure funds to ensure long term bulk water supply security.

The licence will secure a long term average water abstraction of 2.4 million cubic metres per year, whilst the maximum probable abstraction would be limited to 4.2 million cubic metres per annum.

The funding of the Malgas Pump Station and Pipeline networks formed part of a drought intervention to secure water for the George Local Municipality. A further Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant allocation of R78 million over fiscal years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 as well as Drought Relief Grants of R90 million rand was allocated to the George Local Municipality for the construction of an effluent reuse plant that could supply up to 30% of the towns average daily demand.

- (b)(i) No, the Department has not issued a water use licence for raising the spillway at the Garden Route Dam in George due to the following reasons:
- The issuing of the water use licence is dependent on issuance of positive Records of Decision from the Department of Environmental Affairs.
 - The Department of Water Affairs still has to finalise the Comprehensive Reserve of the Resource Directed Measures of the Outeniqua Coastal River Systems.
- (b)(ii) The water use licence will only be issued upon the finalisation of the information mentioned in (a)(i) above.
- (b)(iii) As part of the Department's Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant funding, the Department allocated an amount of R14 million over fiscal years 2010/2011 (R5.5m) and 2011/2012 (R8.5m) for the construction of raised Garden Route Dam Spillway.

The funds for 2010/2011 were used to prepare the earthworks, foundations of the spillway and reconstruct the discharge monitoring control systems. The funding allocated for year 2011/2012 is earmarked for physical construction of the raised spillway.

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