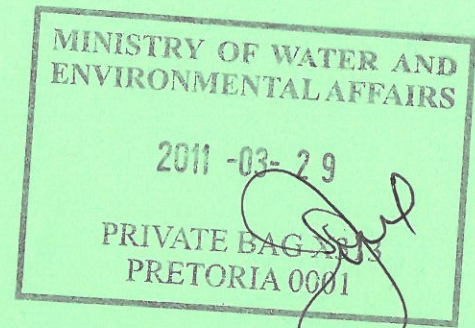




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: Mr Muller
Telephone: 012-336-6567
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 737 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope); 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 737

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

737. Mr N J J van R Koornhof (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that 100% of the Vaal River's upper catchment has an underlying reserve of coal strata which is being mined, resulting in contamination of the water at its source; if so,
- (2) whether strategies have been put in place to ensure that abandoned mines do not cause acid mine drainage; if not, why not; if so, what strategies;
- (3) whether she has taken any steps in cooperation with the Department of Mineral Resources to minimise the risk of coal contamination of water sources; if not, why not; if so, what steps?
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REPLY:

- (1) The Department is aware that the upper catchment of the Vaal River has substantial underlying coal reserves and therefore all applications for water use authorisations by mining companies are carefully considered.
- (2) The strategy is currently being developed by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). The Department provides inputs towards development of the strategy to rehabilitate abandoned mines in order to prevent acid mine drainage.
- (3) Yes, in terms of cooperative governance the Department provides inputs on environmental management plans for mines in order to ensure prevention and minimisation of contamination to water resources.

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