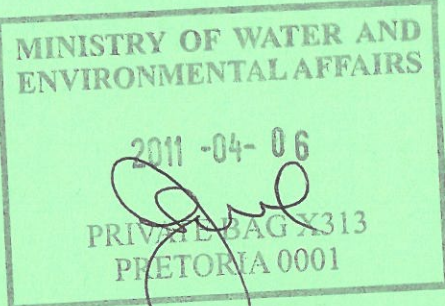




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: A Masfield
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Reference: 21/15/P/5

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 936 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:

5/04/2011

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 13.04.2011

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 936

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 MARCH 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 08)

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

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the Water Quality and Environmental Report produced by Umgeni Water in January 2011; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether her department has taken any action to improve the quality of water in the (a) E J Smith, (b) Inanda and (c) Shongweni Dams, all of which currently have high algae counts; if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (3) whether her department is taking any action to improve the quality of the status of the (a) Sterkspruit inflow into the Shongweni Dam and (b) Mthinzima inflow into the Midmar Dam; if not, why not; if so, what action?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the Department is in receipt of the Water Quality and Environmental Report that is produced by the Umgeni Water as it is submitted to the Department's Regional Office: KwaZulu-Natal on a monthly basis. The report presents a summary of the status of the water resource monitoring and a summary of portable water quality audit monitoring conducted by the Umgeni Water. The raw water and portable water data is also reported into the Department's electronic Blue Drop Water Quality Regulatory System.
- (2)(a) Yes, the Department, in conjunction with the Umgeni Water has established the Mzimayi Catchment Management forum to address water quality issues within the catchment of the EJ Smith Dam. The focus of this forum is to improve the water quality of the Mzimayi River which flows into the EJ Smith Dam. This forum consists of officials from the Department, the Ugu District Municipality, the Umgeni Water, the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Southern Africa (WESSA) as well as community representatives.
- (2)(b) Yes, the Department makes use of the Inanda Catchment Management Forum to identify and deal with issues affecting water quality within the catchment leading to the Inanda Dam. This forum consists of officials from the Department, the Department of Mineral Resources, municipalities, the Umgeni Water, WESSA), a representative from the Duzi-Umgeni Conservancy Trust as well as community representatives.
- (2)(c) Yes, the Department has conducted a water quality status and preliminary resource quality objectives study on the Sterkspruit River with an aim of developing a longer-term proactive strategy to address the water quality problems of this catchment and improve the quality of the Shongweni Dam.
- (3)(a) Yes, the Department has conducted a water quality status and preliminary resource quality objectives study on the Sterkspruit River with an aim of developing a longer-term proactive strategy to address the water quality problems of this catchment. The study has been completed and the Department is in a process of developing a strategy to improve water quality.

- (3)(b) Yes, the Department has held the meetings on 16 March 2011 with the Umgungundlovu District Municipality to highlight the problems in Mpophomeni and to improve operation of the systems. To this end, a specialist water quality study was conducted on the Mpophomeni catchment and measures recommended to improve the current situation include:

No	Activity	Status
1	The re-commissioning and upgrade of the Mpophomeni Wastewater Treatment Works	Currently in progress
2	The rehabilitation and correct management of the wetlands in the area. The rehabilitation of the wetlands in the area	Currently being addressed through the Working for Wetlands Programme. Thus far, an initial site assessment has been completed and funds have been secured for the rehabilitation.
3	The provision of proper solid waste services in the area and the application of proper water services maintenance management, and response timeframes	On 16 March 2011, the Department presented the water quality issues and impacts in the Mpophomeni catchment to the Umgungundlovu District Municipality's Municipal Manager and they committed to address the solid waste and water services problems.

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