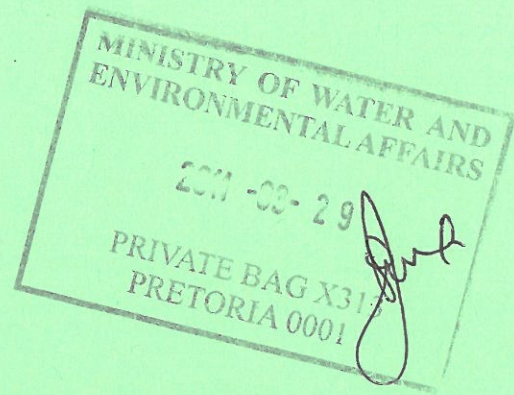




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

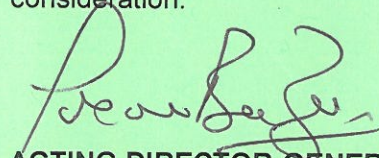


Enquiries: Mr H. Muller
Telephone: 012-336-6567
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

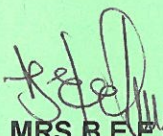
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 990 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs H N Ndude (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 990

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

990. Mrs H N Ndude (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether her department has been informed of the latest findings in the United States that fracking could contaminate drinking water supplies with radioactivity; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

Yes, the Department is aware of many studies done in the United States of America as well as other countries on fracking and has to evaluate all relevant information and compare with our own unique geological formations and information which varies from area to area. The Department is also aware of the proposals to explore for gas in the Karoo Basins and has also noted that the exploration may involve the process of fracking of deep shales. The Department is furthermore aware of the potential impact that fracking poses to the shallow aquifer systems which are the sole source of water for the local users. The Department all its powers under the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998, NWA) to manage the risk that this potential development may pose to the water resources. No applications for water use licenses have been submitted yet.

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