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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1953 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr I O Davidson (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 14/08/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS BE EMOLEWA, MP

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2012/08/15

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1953

<u>DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 3 AUGUST 2012 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 21)</u>

1953. Mr I O Davidson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether an application or applications for a water use license have been received from the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan municipality for storm water protection on critical sections of the Oriel stream and Jukskei River in Bedford View; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether the application or applications are receiving the necessary attention in order to ensure that they are processed as quickly as possible; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details:
- (3) When is it expected that the process leading to a decision on the application or applications for a water use license will be approved?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, an application for a water use license from the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality for storm water protection on critical sections of the Oriel stream and Jukskei River in Bedford View was received by the Department on 23 April 2012.
- (2) All municipalities' water use applications are regarded as strategic water use and thus receive the highest priority. Thus far, aspects such as reserve requirements have already been determined and technical inputs have been provided by relevant technical divisions.
- (3) The Department is currently considering all technical inputs in relation to civil design; impeding and diverting, altering the banks of the river; and possible impacts on the wetland. Subsequent to this process, a Record of Recommendation and draft license will be compiled and presented to the Department's Water Use Authorisation, Assessment and Advisory Committee which provides the Department's delegated authority on recommendations to inform the decision of the water use license application. It is envisaged that the decision on the water use license application will be concluded within 90 days provided all the information submitted meets the requirements.