



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

Enquiries: J van Aswegen
Telephone: 082 807 4198
Reference: 16/2/1/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 111 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs J F Terblanche (DA) is attached for your consideration.

Uswireya

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: *28/02/2012*

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED ^{as} AMENDED ✓

Enrol - please amend and send through

[Signature]

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

DATE: *2012/02/23*

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 111

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09 February 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 01)

111. Mrs J F Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) What are the (a) last two dates on which officials of the Department of Water Affairs have inspected Exarro's Leeuwpan coal mine and (b)(i) names and (ii) designations of the officials who conducted the inspection in each case;
- (2) whether her department has found that the part of the mine which is on the farm Weltevreden is in full compliance with the terms of the water use licence for the mine; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, how was this conclusion reached;
- (3) what actions is the mine permitted to take, in terms of the water use licence, in respect of the wetland on the mine site;
- (4) whether any complaints have been laid against the mine by members of the public for the way it is managing water resources; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether any action has been taken against the mine for transgressions of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW122E

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REPLY:

- (1) Table 1 below indicates the dates, names and designations of officials who conducted the inspections at the Exarro's Leeuwpan Coal Mine:

Table 1: Names of officials and their designations

(a) Date	(b)(i) Name of official	(b)(ii) Designation
7 December 2011	Names furnished	Details furnished
8 February 2012	Names furnished	Details furnished

- (2) No, the mine is not in full compliance with the National Water Act 1998, (Act No. 36 of 1998) as the river diversion was not supposed to encroach on any part of the wetland. The water use licence only authorised the diversion of the Weltevreden spruit which is the tributary of the Bronkhorstspruit to an area with minimum impact on the surrounding environment.
- (3) The mine is not permitted to take any actions, in terms of the water use licence, in respect of the wetland on the mine site as the water use licence does not authorise any water use activity with regard to the wetland on the farm Weltevreden.
- (4) Yes, a complaint was lodged with the Department on 6 December 2011. The complainant alleged that there was a sudden flow of water in a small drainage line that passes through the farm owned by the company. The Department conducted a site visit on 7 December 2011 and found that there was an increase in the flow of water from the direction of the mine.
- (5) Yes, the Department issued a notice in terms of sections 19(3) and 53(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) to the mine on 10 February 2012.

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