



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



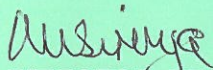
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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1391 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA) is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 05/06/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓


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

DATE: 2012/06/05

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1391

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 MAY 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 14)

1391. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether any progress is being made in establishing an integrated permit system for the issuing of water use licences for the mines; if not, why not; if so, (a) when is it expected that such a system will be in place and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) whether there are any challenges that need to be overcome in order to achieve an integrated permitting system; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) With regard to the water use licenses issued by the Department, we are already issuing a consolidated water use license for the mining operations, encompassing all the water uses identified in one license and this is referred to as an Integrated Water Use License.

There is also an initiative to coordinate and align time frames, legislation, systems, business process, areas of common information requirements etc, for authorisations on the mining across the Departments of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Mineral Resources (DMR) and the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). Processes have been mapped and progress has been made. It is not expected that one integrated permit would be issued under this initiative between the three departments rather, the processes are anticipated to yield to improved coordination on information requirements from applicants as well as aligned time frames on the granting of a mining right/permit and a water use license.

Between the DWA and DMR, some alignment is currently being implemented while other elements such as online application will be phased in over a period of 18 months after enactment of amendments to the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No 28 of 2002), in line with the time frames in the agreement for the transfer of the Environmental Function to the DMR.

- (2) There are no obstacles envisaged as the Department is already issuing an Integrated Water Use License for the mines, and there are no major challenges encountered as the system is well developed over the past few years. The alignment part with the DEA and DMR has to be achieved, however there are a few challenges in respect of the coordinated and aligned time frames for authorisations identified which include but not limited to: human capacity requirements; awareness and communication within the three departments including the external stakeholders; enforcement; appeals and amendments of legislation (also including air quality, waste and ocean and coastal issues); timeframes alignment processes; as well as joint planning for spatial areas.

The challenges were identified through a series of trilateral meetings between the three departments; however, task teams to guide the implementation process have been formed and are dealing with proposed solutions.

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