



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

Enquiries: Mr M. Matlala
Telephone: 012 336 7860
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1393 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: 04/06/2012

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 1393

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

1393. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 3642 on 13 December 2011, any further work has been done to establish whether the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, is sufficient for the purposes of controlling hydraulic fracturing; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any officials of her department had interactions with the task team established by the Minister of Mineral Resources to investigate hydraulic fracturing since her reply; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the Water Research Commission has conducted any research into the impact of hydraulic fracturing on water; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings?

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REPLY:

- (1) The Department is considering classifying hydraulic fracturing as a Controlled Activity under Section 38 of the National Water Act (Act no. 36 of 1998). This will be done through the review of the National Water Act.
- (2) Three hydro geologists from the Department are members of the Working Group of the Task Team established by the Minister of Mineral Resources.
- (3) Yes, the Water Research Commission appointed the University of Free State's Institute for Groundwater Studies to investigate hydraulic fracturing in South Africa. A report is expected in nine months' time.

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