



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1443 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs M Wenger (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

08/06/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED<sup>as</sup>/AMENDED<sub>R</sub>

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

DATE:

2012/06/08

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1443

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 JUNE 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15)

**1443. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 381 on 15 March 2012, she has found any improvement in the quality of the drinking water of Carolina; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;
- (2) whether there has been any response from the specified mines since the issuing of pre-directives on 9 March 2012; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, what is the position in this regard;
- (3) whether her department has taken any further action against the specified mines; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) There has been an improvement detected in the overall quality of drinking water in Carolina, however, there is periodic fluctuation in the water quality of some of the parameters that prevents the water to be declared safe at this stage. Table 1 below reflects a discussion on some of the key parameters:

No	Parameters	Observations
1	pH	The pH levels of the water have improved to be of acceptable levels in spite of the continued acidic state of the water resources.
2	Iron	The Iron levels were initially found to be excessively high but this too now remains consistently within the acceptable limits of the South African National Standards (SANS 241).
3	Aluminium & Manganese	Aluminium and Manganese levels are found to be fluctuating and this is due to the ongoing construction and process amendment underway at the Carolina Water Treatment Works.
4	Sulphate	The Sulphate levels are within the health parameters but are still aesthetically detectable.

- (2) All four mines which were issued with pre-directives on 9 March 2012, have since responded by providing the water quality data which was requested by the Department. Upon evaluation of the information submitted, the Department held the meetings with all mines to clarify the information submitted as it became evident that the water resources had already been polluted, including the wetland and the Boesmanspruit Dam. Further investigations will be conducted by the Department which may result in the mines being held responsible for the cost of rehabilitation of water resources.

- (3) The Department together with the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency are considering various options including the issuance of directives with the intention to rehabilitate and clean-up the area affected by the water pollution. The Department is also intending to approach the South African Police Services and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for possible criminal prosecution if non compliance still continues.

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