



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2279 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

W. Sinyane

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 07/09/2012.

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

The revised version of the 20/09/10

B. E. Molewa

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

DATE: 2012/09/10

dd: 07.09.2012

*Back to DWA - "As draft proper reply,"
Back by: Tuesday, 11/09 @ 09:00
Done.
Final attached.
10/09.*

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2279

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 AUGUST 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27)

2279. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) Which dams are considered at risk or are experiencing eutrophication as a result of high phosphate loads entering the impoundments and (b) what negative effects of such eutrophication have been experienced;
- (2) whether any steps are being taken to improve the water quality in respect of each of these dams; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Most dams in the Crocodile West Marico Water Management Areas are eutrophic to hypertrophic while others indicate serious eutrophication potential relative to other water management areas. These dams include:

Crocodile West-Marico Water Management Area:

Most of the dams are hyper-eutrophic

Hartebeespoort dam	eutrophic
Roodeplaat dam	eutrophic
Bospoort dam	incipient
Bon Accord dam	incipient
Rietvlei dam	eutrophic
Klipvoor dam	eutrophic
Moroka dam	incipient

Middle Vaal water management area:

Erfenis dam	incipient
Allemanskraal dam	incipient
Koppies dam	incipient

Lower Vaal water management area:

Spitskop dam	eutrophic
Krugersdrift dam	incipient

Mvoti to Umzimkhulu water management area:

Nagle dam	incipient
Inanda dam	incipient
Shongweni dam	eutrophic

Mzimvubu to Keiskamma water management area:

Laing dam	incipient
Kariver dam	incipient
Nahoon dam	incipient
Bridledrift dam	incipient

- (1)(b) Although these dams have been classified as eutrophic and few hypertrophic there have been no serious effects of eutrophication recently as it has been winter. There is a high possibility of eutrophication symptoms such as excessive algal blooms and nuisance growths of water hyacinth this summer and the Department is making provision for this. Algal blooms associated with eutrophication, may result in aquatic animal deaths when their decomposition leads to oxygen depletion. There can also be taste, colour and odour challenges in the potable water supplies. Blockage of intake screens and filters is also possible at the water purification plants.
- (2) The main sources of nutrient (phosphorus & nitrogen compounds) pollution in this catchment are sewage effluent and diffuse sources of pollution, such as informal settlements and storm water. Since wastewater treatment plants are the main point source of nutrient enrichment, the Local Municipalities are encouraged to improve compliance to the Green Drop System that was designed to ensure that WWTW improve their operations to avoid negative impact on the water bodies into which they discharge.

The Department is in the process of determining charge rates for implementation of Waste Discharge Charge System (polluter pays principle), that will encourage the water users to meet the required effluent standards before discharging into the water resources. The Department is also in the process of finalising guideline documents on prevention, management and control of Eutrophication in rivers and dams.

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