



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: N Musekene
Telephone: 012 336 7277
Reference: 2/1/5/1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 229 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

N Musekene

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: *27/02/2012*

✓
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

B E E Molewa

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

DATE: *2012/02/29*

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 229

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 17 February 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 02)

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

- (1) (a) Which of the mines currently operated by a certain company (name furnished) have water use licences (WULs), (b) on what date was each specified WUL issued and (c) what is the (i) name and (ii) contact details of the official in her department from which a copy of each specified WUL can be obtained;
- (2) (a) which mines that are currently being operated by the said company do not have WULs and (b) what is the status of the application for a WUL in each case;
- (3) whether her department has taken any action in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, against the specified mines that do not have WULs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether she has found any cases in which mines of the said company having closed down without ever having obtained a WUL during the course of operation; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so,
- (5) whether her department has taken any action against the company for having operated and closed these specified mines without WULs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW250E

---0000---

REPLY:

- (1)(a) Table 1 below indicates the names of the mines operated by the company which were issued with water use licences (b) the date each specified water use license issued and (c)(i) name and (c)(ii) contact details of the official in the Department from which a copy of each specified water use licences can be obtained

Table 1:

No	Name of the Mines	Date issued	Name of the official	Contact details
1	Brakfontein	31/03/2011	Name furnished	Details furnished
2	Middldekraal	19/02/2011	Name furnished	Details furnished
3	Klippan	20/04/2011	Name furnished	Details furnished
4	Wonderfontein	20/04/2011	Name furnished	Details furnished
5	Grootpan	20/04/2011	Name furnished	Details furnished

- (2)(a) The Kleinfontein and Umsimbithi Mines are currently being operated by the company without a water use license.
- (2)(b) The current status of the water use license application for the Kleinfontein and Umsimbithi Mines is that, the Department is awaiting outstanding information (Water balances and Mining Permits) from the applicant. Upon receipt of the above outstanding information, the application will be evaluated through normal Departmental processes.
- (3) Yes, the Department has 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 23 February 2012.

- (4) Yes, some portions of the operations of the company were closed down before a water use license was issued to the Klippan, Wonderfontein and Grootpan Mines. The said company rectified the issue of operating without a water use license by applying for an updated water use license on notice and discussions with the Department. The water uses involved are related to taking of water from a resource, pollution control dam, etc.
- (5) No action has been taken against the company as the Department issued a water use licence to these mines.. The water use license that was issued to the company covered all operations and rehabilitation to the mines, including the portion that was closed down. However, the Department is quantifying the extent of water use that was utilised on the portions that the mines closed down and as such, the Department will take appropriate action upon concluding its investigation.

---0000---