



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION ★237 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 27/08/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED^{as}/AMENDED

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

DATE: 20/2/2012

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO ★237

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 AUGUST 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 26)

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

- (1) Whether, since her reply to question 381 on 24 February 2012, she has found the (a) quality of water and (b) availability of supply of water in Carolina town to be of acceptable standards; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Department of Water Affairs has taken any steps to ensure that the (a) quality and (b) availability of water in Carolina town is not compromised again; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Yes, since the reply to question 381 in February 2012, the drinking water quality of the Carolina town currently complies with the South African National Standards (SANS 241). Such is evident from the drinking water quality results from different accredited laboratories where drinking water samples were tested and reflects amongst other parameters, stabilised levels of pH of the water and limits of the SANS 241.
- (1)(b) The drinking water is available and was declared safe for drinking purposes. Constant monitoring of the drinking water quality is taking place. The Department's Rapid Response Unit (RRU) team (currently based on site) is conducting the monitoring on weekly basis, and is utilising the accredited laboratories. Furthermore, the Department's Regional Office Compliance Monitoring Enforcement section is currently monitoring drinking water quality in the Mpumalanga Province on a monthly basis and also making use of the accredited laboratories.
- (2) Yes, the Department has put in the following measures to ensure that, the quality and availability of drinking water in Carolina town is not compromised:
 - (2)(a) Quality measures:
 - Installation of pressure filters package plant that uses DMI 65 green sand as a catalytic media that removes heavy metals to serve as a polishing plant for removal of excess heavy metals.
 - Appointment of five contract workers as Process Controllers for a period of 1 year to assist with the treatment processes and day to day running of the Carolina Water Treatment Plant. An experienced Process Controller has also been appointed by the Gert Sibande District Municipality to work with the contract workers until his contract comes to an end on 28 September 2012.
 - Conducting regular water drinking quality monitoring programme to ensure that corrective measures be put in place immediately if there is failures detected in the Carolina Water Treatment Plant.
 - Monitoring of the catchment on a weekly basis to ensure that any deviation or trends can be established and pro-actively addressed. Should there be any transgressors, it can be timeously identified and addressed.

(2)(b) Quantity measures:

The Carolina Water Treatment Plant is currently able to handle 3.2 MI/d and will be upgraded to 6MI/d in three phases.

Phase 1 has been completed which includes the refurbishment, process modifications and construction of a new dosing facility.

Phase 2 is awaiting the appointment of the contractor which should be concluded by 30 August 2012 and will include the following:

- refurbishment and upgrading of electrical connections;
- installation of a backup generator for in case of power failure;
- installation of new pressure filters at the package plant;
- upgrading of the abstraction point at the Boesmanspruit Dam;
- refurbishment and upgrading the Motor Control Centre for the clear and raw water pump station installation of a telemetry system; and
- refurbishment of water meters.

Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed next financial year and will include the conversion of current sludge facility to clarifiers; and construction of flocculation channel.

It should be noted that the upgrade of the Carolina Water Treatment Plant will be done by the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality with the support of the Department.

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