



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



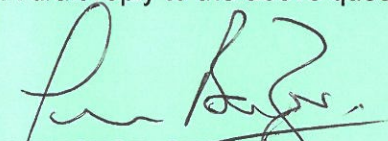
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Reference: 6/2/2/6

### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2686 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

*Ad*  
  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 31/10/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED <sup>was</sup>

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

DATE: 2012/10/01

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2686

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 SEPTEMBER 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31)

**2686. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 2368 on 14 September 2012, the date of the 2012 audit is in compliance with the audit frequency as stipulated in the water use licence that was issued to the mine; if not, what steps does she intend to take to rectify the situation; if so, how was this conclusion reached;
- (2) whether, with reference to the findings of the 2011 audit, the effects of dewatering by the mine on water users have been taken into account; if not, what steps does she intend to take to rectify the situation; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she has been informed that the mine management has refused to make the audits available for scrutiny to affected water users; if so, what steps does she intend to take to rectify the situation; if not,
- (4) whether she intends to investigate the situation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) The date of the 2012 audit is in compliance with the audit frequency as stipulated in the water use licence. The water use licence stipulates that the licensee must conduct an audit in compliance with the conditions of its water use licence on an annual basis.
- (2) The impact of dewatering by the mine on water users has been taken into account, with reference to the findings of the 2011 audit. The Department has ascertained that, in accordance with the conditions of the mine's water use licence, water users that are affected by the mine's dewatering activities are compensated for the loss of water through various means such as the provision of alternative water supply or grazing subsidies. In addition, it has also been determined that several of the affected water users have exercised the option to sell their properties to the mine.
- (3) The Department is not aware that the mine management has refused to make the audits available for scrutiny to the affected water users and is investigating this allegations. The Member should however request the Audit Report directly from the mine.
- (4) The Department will investigate the situation and will arrange an engagement session with affected water users to obtain greater insight into the matters as also raised in question 2688 and, if need be; will direct the mine to address the matters in line with the conditions as stipulated in the water use licence.

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