



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



Enquiries: M Keet  
Telephone: 012 392 1415  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2815 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**



DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

**DATE:** 2012/10/3

25/10/12



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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2815 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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

*M. Singaya*

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 15/10/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

*as to be*  
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*Done: 25/10/12*

*Encl - Please ensure commitment today to 23<sup>rd</sup> still, and send back to us for final validation*

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2815

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 12 OCTOBER 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32)

**2815. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether there has been any water pollution emanating from the Blyvooruitzicht mine of a certain company (name furnished) since 1 April 2012; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the Department of Water Affairs has issued any (a) notices, (b) directives or (c) criminal charges in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether steps have been taken to clean up the pollution; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the pollution has posed any risk to the quality of drinking water in affected municipalities; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, the Department of Water Affairs (the Department) was informed by the mine telephonically on Friday 27 July 2012 of an accidental spillage of mining slime (tailings) at the Blyvooruitzicht mine resulting in some of the material flowing into a canal leading to the Wonderfontein Spruit (Wolverdient / Carletonville area). Subsequently, on Monday 30 July 2012, officials of the Department conducted a site inspection at Wonderfontein Spruit. An analysis of the water samples confirmed that the spillage caused transient pollution of the said watercourse.
- (2) Yes, in terms of Section 20 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), the Department issued a notice to the mine with the instruction that the spillage must be cleared and the affected site remediated.
- (3) Yes, at the time of the spillage, the mine notified the Department and immediately commenced with measures to contain the pollution as well as commence with clean-up operations. The most recent inspection on 2 October 2012 showed substantial progress in remediating the affected site and further water quality monitoring has shown an improvement in water quality.
- (4) No, the Tlokwe Municipality (the Municipality) processes its drinking water through a conventional water purification system. In terms of the South African National Standards 241, assessment of the quality of the drinking water supplied by the Municipality confirms that the water is safe for human consumption.

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