



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2954 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

W. Siraya

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 31/10/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓

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

DATE: 2012/10/30

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2954

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 OCTOBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)

2954. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her reply to question 2684 on 8 October 2012, any progress has been made by the mediation panel set up in terms of section 150 of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998, to hear the mine's appeal against the directive issued by the Department of Water Affairs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether officials from the Department of Water Affairs have conducted an inspection at the mine since the reply to the question on 8 October 2012; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) how much of the wetland/pan was mined through before the removal of machinery for mining occurred;
- (4) whether she has found that no further mining of the wetland/pan has occurred since the removal of machinery referred to in the reply; if not, how was this conclusion reached; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) what actions (a) are permitted and (b) are not permitted by the mine in accordance with the water licence issued to the mine?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, progress has been made as the appeal for the mine is set down for mediation on 7 November 2012 when the mediation panel appointed by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs will attempt to mediate an acceptable outcome for both the Department of Water Affairs (the Department) and the mine and both parties have already confirmed their attendance.
- (2) Yes, officials from the Department conducted a site inspection at the mine on 17 October 2012 and they have established that the mine is no longer mining the pan.
- (3) The mining affected an area within the buffer zone of the pan next to Block OWM on the property (details furnished), however this area has not been surveyed to establish the exact size of the area mined.
- (4) As indicated in question 2684 on 8 October 2012, the Department held a meeting with the mine management on 30 August 2012 and the mine confirmed that, the mining activities within the pan have ceased. Furthermore, the officials of the Department conducted an inspection on 17 October 2012 and found that indeed no mining of the pan has taken place since the last reply.

- (5)(a) Taking water from a water resource, storing water, impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse, disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource and altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.
- (5)(b) The mining of a wetland or pan are not permitted in accordance with the licence issued to the mine.

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