



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3228 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M Swart (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 21/11/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 2012/11/29

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3228

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 16 NOVEMBER 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 41)

3228. Mr M Swart (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

Whether, with reference to her reply to question 1703 on 23 July 2012, the process of reviewing the water use licence application of the George Local Municipality was finalised by 30 September 2012; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be finalised; if so, what is the final outcome of this review?

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REPLY:

Regrettably, the review of the water use licence applications for the George Local Municipality could not be finalised by 30 September 2012.

- (1)(a) The three water use licence applications by the George Local Municipality, i.e. (i) Malgas River Pump Station, (ii) the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant at the Outeniqua Waste Water Works and (iii) the Raising of the Garden Route Dam, are all inter-connected, although the applications were submitted individually and were initially reviewed separately.

Furthermore, the actual position of the construction of the Malgas River Pump Station versus the original planned position directly impacts on the set conditions of the approved Outeniqua Reserve Determination, making the licensing conditions more cumbersome.

Moreover, the contributions from the existing Kaaimans River Diversion, the Water Court Ruling of 1976 on compensation releases from the Garden Route Dam to downstream water users in the Swart River, the additional abstraction, storage and incremental yield from the proposed raised Garden Route Dam, directly influence the individual licences and its associated collective conditions.

In considering the issuing of a licence, the Department must take into account all relevant factors as stipulated under Section 27(1) of the National Water, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) to ensure long term sustainable water use allocations, and also to secure bulk water for the municipality without detriment of other existing water users, and the natural ecosystem sustainable functioning on each of the river reaches, where the pump station, the diversions and the dam are situated.

- (1)(b) The Department has indicated that all efforts to expedite the integrated applications by the George Local Municipality will be made. The Department also anticipates that the review of the water use licence applications would be concluded by mid-December 2012, upon which the authorisations would be processed for issuance.

All these licence applications for the George Local Municipality were initially identified as potential interventions that are in line with the recommendations from the Outeniqua Coast Water Assessment Study completed in 2008, as well as the recommendations from the all Towns Reconciliation Strategies Study for George and surrounding area.

The review of the integrated licences has indicated that the Raising of the Garden Route Dam could be authorised without additional environmental releases, other than the calculated monthly compensation releases as per the Water Court Ruling that would be replaced by this authorisation once approved by the delegated authority.

Furthermore, additional gauging structures would have to be constructed within the Malgas River to measure flows from specific river systems that were excluded from abstraction under the set Outeniqua Reserve.

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