



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 906 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above question asked by Dr L L Bosman (DA) is attached for your consideration.

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 08/05/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 20/2/05/10

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 906

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 APRIL 2012
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 09)

906. Dr L L Bosman (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether there are any standards or protocols that govern the (a) cleaning and (b) removal of solid matter from water reservoirs; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;
- (2) whether the Department of Water Affairs makes any recommendations on how regularly (a) water reservoirs run by municipalities should be cleaned and (b) solid matter should be removed from them; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;
- (3) whether she has taken any steps with regard to the state of water reservoirs run by municipalities; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not? NW1086E

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REPLY:

- (1) No. There are no National Standards or protocols that govern the cleaning and/or removal of solid matter from reservoirs. The design of reservoirs and the different valve technology determine how scouring is to be conducted and is normally part of the operations and maintenance manuals for the infrastructure.
- (2) Yes. The Blue Drop Certification programme sets requirements for drinking water quality risk management which informs the necessary mitigating operations needed to be taken. The water safety planning process details the risk assessment process for the catchment, treatment, reticulation and point of use. Reservoirs form part of the risks related to reticulation with regards to external access and internal sediment. Water services institutions are therefore required to have control measures in place for each associated risk and in this regard it would necessitate scouring which will form part of the cleaning and sediment removal. Disinfection residual is another risk control measure which serves as a barrier for re-growth of bacteria and bio-film in the pipe-network and reservoirs. The frequency of scouring is determined through operational monitoring which will indicate deterioration of turbidity levels downstream of a reservoir. An increase in turbidity will inform the frequency of scouring. This will differ across the country as raw water quality and treatment processes are the determining factors.
- (3) Yes. The consultative audit process of the Blue Drop Certification ensures that inspectors assess treatment facilities and reservoirs where necessary, based upon water safety planning and operational monitoring information. In case of non-compliance, municipalities are instructed to scour where necessary.

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