



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdST

Enquiries: A Abrahams  
Telephone: 053 836 7600  
Reference: 2/1/5/1

082 883 6741 (Abie)

**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 461 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above question asked by Mrs E C van Lingen (DA-EC) is attached for your consideration.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 05/09/2012

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED ✓

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

DATE: 2012/09/12

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 461

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 AUGUST 2012  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 )

461. Mrs E C van Lingen (DA-EC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) How many slime dams are (i) available, (ii) in use and (iii) not operational at a certain diamond mining facility (name furnished), (b) how much money has been spent on the rehabilitation of these dams to date, (c) who is responsible for monitoring the rehabilitation process and (d) how many dams in operation were (i) permitted and (ii) not permitted;
- (2) whether any actions have been taken to permit these dams; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CW566E

---0000---

**REPLY:**

- (1)(a)(i) The mine has 10 slime dams available.
- (1)(a)(ii) Two dams are presently in use and another two are earmarked for future use.
- (1)(a)(iii) Currently, seven dams are not operational (this includes the two dams that are earmarked for future use). One slime dam has been fully rehabilitated and another one has been partially rehabilitated.
- (1)(b) The mine has confirmed that they spent a total of R2,4 million on the rehabilitation of the two dams.
- (1)(c) The rehabilitation of the two slime dams were done in line with the Environmental Management Plan approved by the Department of Mineral Resources.
- (1)(d)(i) None of the slime dams are currently authorised. The mine has, however applied for authorisation of the two slime dams that are currently in operation. Further, the mine has advised the Department that they intend to apply for a water use licence for the two dams earmarked for future use.
- (1)(d)(ii) As indicated in (1)(d)(i) above, the mine is intending to apply for the authorisation of the two dams earmarked for future use and five slime dams are old and dormant and not authorised.
- (2) The mine has applied for the authorisation of two dams from the Department and the water use license application is still being processed.

There is currently a land claim case against the mine, so the mine is uncertain of whether it will re-commission the five unused slime dams. It should be noted that, a large scale of the mining operations at the mine were stopped as a result of the land claim case against the mine. The outcome of the land claim case against the mine will determine whether the mine should re-commission the slime dams or fully rehabilitate them.

---0000---