



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2963 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms B D Ferguson (Cope) is attached for your consideration.

Steven Bayle
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 30/10/2013

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

Best version
26/11
Done.
Hello Etzabe. Please forward this response to Mava and ask him to release this as a press statement, informing South Africans about progress on AMD in these areas. It MUST be out by tomorrow latest.
Exrol - No attachment has been done as stated in the question. (Name furnished); so I don't know what this is about

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

DATE: 2013/11/25

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2963

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 25 OCTOBER 2013
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 35)

2963. Ms B D Ferguson (Cope) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she has received the long-term feasibility plan with regard to acid mine drainage (details furnished); if not, why not; if so,
- (2) what progress has she made regarding the implementation of solutions for the rise of acidity in the water?

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REPLY:

- (1) The Long-Term Solution Feasibility Report has been received by the Department for presentation to the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) for mine water management and it is currently within the approval process.
- (2) Significant progress is being made with the implementation of emergency works for Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) management in the Witwatersrand goldfields (Western, Central and Eastern Basins). The emergency works included specific immediate and short-term solutions, which entail the pumping and neutralisation of AMD. The emergency works are aimed at containing AMD at a pre-determined level which will ensure that ground and surface water resources are protected, as well as preventing other AMD-associated environmental and socio-economic impacts.
 - In the Western Basin, the immediate solution is operational, resulting in the eradication of surface decant into the environment. Since August 2012, total surface decant of AMD that previously flowed untreated into the river (the Tweelopie Spruit) is now treated by neutralisation (pH correction, metal removal and partial sulphate removal). The level of AMD is now reduced to 3 (three) metres from surface decant.
 - In the Central Basin, work commenced in January 2013 towards the construction of an AMD pump-station, neutralisation plant and, waste and neutralised water pipelines at the former East Rand Proprietary Mine (South West Vertical Shaft). Civil works are currently at an advanced stage of development and commissioning is projected for December 2013. Neutralised water will be discharged into the Elsburg Spruit (tributary of the Klip Rivier) and waste sludge from the neutralisation plant will be disposed onto a tailings facility and/ or at dedicated sludge disposal sites (currently being assessed for suitability). Once pumping and neutralisation of mine water commences, it will maintain AMD at a pre-determined level which will ensure that ground and surface water resources are protected, as well as preventing other AMD-related impacts. Currently, the level of underground AMD does not present any environmental or socio-economic risks.
 - In the Eastern Basin, infrastructure similar to the Central Basin is projected for development at the former Pamodzi/ Aurora Gold Mine (Grootvlei No. 3 Shaft). A bid for this project was recently advertised and mandatory briefing meetings with potential service providers already convened. It is envisaged that a bid will be awarded by December 2013 with the project commissioning scheduled for December 2014.

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