water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 57 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 15/04/2013

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/~~AMENDED~~

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

DATE: 2013/04/15

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 57

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 MARCH 2013 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 04)

57. Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1) Whether her department is monitoring the water quality in the Orange and Vaal River systems effectively and efficiently; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether her department will provide scientific details of the water quality of the Orange and Vaal River at Douglas, Hopetown and Upington in the Northern Cape for the past 12 months; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? CW104E

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REPLY:

(1) Yes, the Department has an effective and efficient water quality monitoring programme in place in both the Orange and Vaal River. It must be noted that the Vaal River is divided into three water management areas and managed by three Regional Offices of the Department of Water Affairs (the Department), namely, Free State, Gauteng and Northern Cape.

i) Upper Vaal water management area is managed by Gauteng Regional Office. There are twenty three (23) routine monitoring points covering all major tributaries as well as the main stem of the Vaal River. Since March 2013 a real time monitoring system (automated system which continuously monitors the quality of the water) has been implemented in the Upper Vaal. This system enables the Regional Office to monitor the quality of water on a daily basis. The Department intends to extend the real time monitoring system to the rest of the Vaal River.

Water Management area	Monitoring points	Water Quality variables monitored
Upper Vaal	Vaal River Origin at N17 Bridge	pH, temperature, ammonia, chemical oxygen demand, E. coli, calcium, chlorides, electrical conductivity, magnesium, nickel, phosphates, sodium, sulphates, suspended solids, Total dissolved solids, iron, fluoride, aluminum,
	Camden,	
	Amersfort	
	Blokop Bridge	
	Grootdraai Dam	
	Villiers	
	Vaal Dam	
	Vaal Barrage	
	Kroomdraai	
	Witputnspruit at Camden	

	Rietspruit between Ermelo and Amersfort	manganesefeacal coliform On some other points we monitor silicon, lead, phenols
	Kleinval	
	Welbedacht bridge	
	Vosloopark	
	Wolwenfontein	
	Frankfort	
	Rietvley R39 bridge	
	Leeuspruit R59 Bridge	
	Verdun	
	Vereeniging Weir	
	Kaalplaats	
	Kromelboogspruit R59 Bridge	
	Hoogelkraal/Kromdraai	

ii) The Middle Vaal and Upper Orange water management area are managed by the Free State Regional Office. There are seven (7) monitoring points each on the Orange and Vaal Rivers. The monitoring points on the Vaal River include sites at Bothaville (Regina and Klipplaatdrift), Stilfontein (Vermaasdrift and No #8 Bridge) Klerksdorp (Midvaal Intake), Orkney (Boat Club). The monitoring points in the Orange River are located at Aliwal North (Goedemoed Prison, Downstream of waste water works, Orange River Bridge), Gariep dam, Vanderkloof Dam and Zastron(Oranje Draai)

Water Management area	Monitoring points	Water Quality variables monitored
Middle Vaal	Bothaville (Regina and Klipplaatdrift)	pH, electrical conductivity, total alkalinity, ammonia nitrogen, dissolved orthophosphate, chemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, acid soluble aluminium, acid soluble iron, acid soluble magnesium, chloride, nitrate, sulphate, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, total cliforms and E. coli.
	Stilfontein (Vermaasdrift and No #8 Bridge)	
	Klerksdorp (Midvaal Intake),	
	Orkney (Boat Club),	
Upper Orange River	Aliwal North (Goedemoed Prison, Downstream of water water works, Orange River Bridge),	
	Gariep Dam,	
	Vanderkloof Dam	
	Zastron (Orange Draai)	

iii) The Northern Cape Regional Office manages the Lower Vaal and Orange River water management areas. There are eleven (11) monitoring points each on the Orange and Lower Vaal River. Below is the breakdown of the monitoring points per water management area:

Water Management area	Monitoring points	Water Quality variables monitored
Lower Vaal	Douglas Weir	pH, temperature, ammonia, chemical oxygen demand,
	Barkley West,	
	Delportshoop,	

	Schmidtsdrift,	E. coli, chlorophyll a, calcium, chlorides, electrical conductivity, magnesium, nickel, phosphates, sodium, sulphates, suspended solids, dissolved solids and Vibrio Cholera
	Bloemhof,	
	Vaalharts Weir,	
	Warrenton (Low Water Bridge)	
	Warrenton (N12 Bridge),	
	Gong-Gong	
	Vaal Gamagara	
	Pampierstad	
Orange River	Groblershoop	
	Gariep,	
	Kanoneiland	
	Kakamas	
	Keimoes	
	Pella	
	Sendelingsdrift	
	Henkries,	
	Vioolsdrift,	
	Brandkaros	
	Blouputs	

2. The Department keeps records of the water quality information on the national water quality data base named the National Water Management System (WMS). Water quality data of the Orange and Vaal Rivers for the past twelve months is available from all three Regional Offices on request.

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