



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdCM

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 233 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

17/03/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

2014/03/13

FOR WRITTEN REPLYQUESTION NO 233

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 28 FEBRUARY 2014
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4)

233. Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether she could provide information on the state of the Hartbeespoort Dam;
- (2) what are the results of the latest analysis of the quality of water supplied to Madibeng?

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REPLY:

- (1) Given the nature of fluctuating environmental conditions (seasonal and weather- rainfall, storms, wind, flooding, etc.), which directly and indirectly result in changing the physical, biological and chemical state of the Hartbeespoort Dam, the following conditions are prevalent at this stage after the significant flooding experiences in the catchment during the latest rainfall this season since September 2013 (estimate to be the 3rd biggest hydrological event over the past 30-years):
 - Great amounts of litter and debris with hyacinths entered into the dam since September 2013. Removal of these materials is ongoing with labourers employed by Working for Water and the Harties-Metsi-a-me programme;
 - With the increased nutrient and sediment loads that has entered the dam during the latest storm water and flooding, increased algae blooms periodically occur since September 2013, but concentrations have only reached enough density that was pumped during the week of 10 to 14 February 2014;
 - The aquatic ecosystem diversity is in a constant improving curve since the switch in plant succession was first noticed during September 2009. This increased diversity is confirmed in the bio-monitoring report. The latest updated Executive Summary of Integrated Monitoring Progress Report Phase I is attached.
- (2) The Madibeng Local Municipality, as the Water Services Authority, is responsible for the analysis of raw water. The main Water Treatment Plant is abstracting water from the Crocodile River, which is the water that is released from the Hartbeespoort Dam. The analysis results obtained from the Madibeng Municipality for abstraction to the Brits plant over the period December 2013 to February 2014, is given in the table below:

Sample name	Brits raw	Brits raw	Brits Raw	Brits Raw	Brits Raw
Date Sample	03-12-13	16-12-13	16-01-14	20-01-14	05-02-14
Date Analyzed	03-12-13	16-12-13	16-01-14	20-01-14	05-02-14
Colour	15	10	10	15	15
Turbidity (NTU)	2.6	3.0	5.0	5.2	2.6
pH	2.8	8.4	8.2	7.8	8.6
Conductivity @ 25 C (mS/m)	51	39	40	40	40
TDS mg/l	326	242	256	256	256
Tot. Hardness (mg/l CaCO ₃)	229.0	229.0	229.0	263.0	185.0
Calcium (mg/l Ca)	61.0	19.0	49.8	52.6	42.0
Magnesium (mg/l Mg)	21	20	25.51	23	20
Sodium (mg/l Na)					
Potassium (mg/l K)	5.2	6	4.2	4.9	4.2
Tot. Alkalinity mg/l (CaCO ₃)	183.0	182.0	145.0	142.0	122.0
Chlorides (mg/l Cl)	69	60	45	39	42
Sulphates (mg/l SO ₄)	59.8	53.5	56	49	62
Fluoride (mg/l F)					
Nitrate +Nitrite (mg/l N)	5.2	5.4	4	4.2	302
Iron (mg/l Fe)	0.19	0.06	0.00	0.03	0.01

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