



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdCM

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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 292 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr K J Mileham (DA) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 26/03/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

Response is being reworked as discussed with  
a ~~DO~~ this morning of the 29th/3/14

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

DATE: 2014/03/28



**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 292**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 MARCH 2014**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5)**

**292. Mr K J Mileham (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether the municipal water supply and/or reticulation in Ndlambe Municipality is regularly tested according to international norms and standards for potable water; if so, what are the results for each test conducted in the past 6 months;
- (2) whether the results meet the specified norms and standards; if not, why not;
- (3) what steps are taken by her department to rectify a situation in which a municipal water supply and/or reticulation is contaminated with (a) E.coli and (b) faecal coliforms;
- (4) whether such steps were taken in the specified municipality; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether the 2012-13 Green Drop Report has been finalised; if not, why not; if so, when will it be released?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, the water supply at Ndlambe municipality is tested on a regular basis. Drinking water is tested according to the internationally recognised SANS 241:2005/2011 standards. The presence of microbiological indicators provides information on treatment efficiency. Therefore, a public water system for drinking water is required as a minimum to monitor for microbiological determinants. In this regard the monitoring programme focuses on the key health determinant. Over the past year the Ndlambe Local Municipality carried out 241 tests and there were 17 failures in terms of the E-coili count giving a compliance level of 93%.
- (2) The main reasons for non-compliance are attributed to ineffective operation and monitoring systems.
- (3) The Eastern Cape Provincial Office monitors the situation and determines the seriousness of any problems and should there be serious health implications, the Rapid Response Unit, (RRU) provides intervention support to ensure that corrective action is taken.
- (4) Yes, Amatola Water Board is appointed as the implementing agent for regional bulk investigations and support programs in Ndlambe, allowing them (Amatola Water board) to provide rapid response to interventions where necessary. The Department also served Ndlambe Municipality with non-compliance letters for failing to submit monthly monitoring results and when water quality failures occurred. The municipality has always reacted positively and taken corrective actions to improve their operations and monitoring systems.
- (5) No, the Green Drop Report has not yet been released. The report will be released as soon as the verification and approval processes have been concluded.

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