



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

12 SEP 2014

NCOP 91

EdTM

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Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★91 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr O Sefako (ANC-NW) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 10/09/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 14.09.14

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★91

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 08 SEPTEMBER 2014
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11)

★91. Mr O Sefako (ANC-NW) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Whether her department has taken any steps to address the negative and hazardous impact of contaminated acid mine and toxic industrial water spillage to community settlements that use such water; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (2) whether there are any inter-ministerial and intergovernmental engagements to deal with the hazardous impact on communities using such water; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, the spillage of any polluted water into the environment is regulated by the Department under the provisions of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). Specifically in terms of acid mine drainage (AMD), this phenomenon previously occurred in the Krugersdorp area where AMD from an abandoned mine shaft overflowed into the environment. In December 2011 an emergency solution to avert AMD-related socio-economic and environmental risks was implemented. The emergency solution involved treatment of AMD by neutralisation technology which removes toxic dissolved metals from the AMD and adjusts the pH thus making the water safer for the environment.

Similar emergency solutions are applicable in the Germiston area. In the Springs area construction is underway and expected operations is December 2015. A long-term solution for treatment of AMD is in the process of being rolled-out ensuring that AMD can be treated and made available for beneficial use.

- (2) Yes, an inter-governmental task team (chaired by the Director-General [Acting]) which is tasked with overseeing the management of all AMD and mine water-related issues. Issues of national strategic concern emanating from the inter-governmental task team are presented to an inter-Ministerial committee. Recommendations put forward by the inter-governmental task team for sanction of the inter-Ministerial committee are aligned with Government's mandate for water resource and environmental protection.

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