



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdTM

Enquiries: AB SINGH
Telephone: 012 336 7531
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2193 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms T E Baker (DA) is attached for your consideration.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 29/11/2016

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE: 03.12.16

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 2193

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14 OCTOBER 2016
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 30)

2193. Ms T E Baker (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) What (a) is the current status of the Ermelo Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mpumalanga and (b) are the results of the water quality tests of the treated effluent in each month since 1 January 2016;
- (2) whether the specified plant complies with the standards for effluent discharge as regulated by her department; if not, what action has she taken to rectify the situation; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW2515E

---0000---

REPLY:

- (1)(a) The Ermelo Waste Water Treatment Plant is currently receiving 12-16 Ml/day and is designed to handle 10 Ml/day. Overall, the infrastructure of the plant was in bad condition and that compromised the sewage treatment process to the extent that substandard effluent was discharged.

The Ermelo Waste Water Treatment Plant has been one of the plants identified for emergency works. Prior to my Department's involvement, the plant was in bad condition to the extent that substandard effluent was discharged. To date, section 2 of the plant is complete and connection to this section will be by end of November 2016. This connection will increase the standard of the effluent and once section one is connected in January 2017, the standard of discharged will meet the green drop requirements.

- (b) The Green Drop System, which the Department utilizes to monitor compliance levels of wastewater treatment works in the country, shows that the level of compliance for the plant from 01 January 2016 to September 2016 is zero for micro, physical and chemical parameters specific for wastewater effluent.
- (2) The effluent from the plant does not comply with the general standard. The Department had meetings with the municipality, inspections were conducted and correspondences were also sent to the municipality. Due to lack of response from the municipality, a task team (comprising DWS, Departments of Human Settlements, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, District and Local Municipalities) was then established to address the concerns related to the plant. See Table 1 and 2 below:

Table 1: Correspondences with the Municipality prior to establishment of the task team

DWS Action	Issues raised	Type of communication	Municipality response
Issued communication due to poor water quality discharging into the stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage pollution water use authorisation application 	Letter dated 23 November 2009	None
Site inspection conducted on 14 July 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage pollution 	Section 19 letter dated 19 July 2010	None
Site inspection conducted on 11 Nov 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage pollution at Pet Dam 	Meeting held with the municipality immediately after the inspection	The problem was resolved same day
Site inspection conducted on 14 June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage spillages and poor effluent quality reporting of pollution incidents incomplete discharge charges forms water use authorisation application Poor attendance of stakeholder forum meetings 	Meeting with municipality on 06 August 2012	Raised their challenges

Table 2: Correspondences with the Municipality after establishment of the task team

DWS Action	Issues raised	Type of communication	Municipality response
Issued communication based on the meeting held on 06 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sewage pollution establishment of the Task Team 	Letter dated 14 August 2012	None
Follow up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reminder to respond 	Letter dated 11 October 2012	Submitted insufficient action plan on 14 November 2012
Task Team	Actions from minutes	Meeting on 26 September 2012 at Govan Mbeki Municipality	No feedback, the Municipality sent another person without information
Task Team	Actions from minutes	Meeting on 14 November 2012 at Lekwa Municipality	Attended
Task Team	Actions from minutes	Meeting on 06 February 2013 at Dr Pixley ka Seme Municipality	Did not attend
Issued a communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non attendance of Task Team meeting 	Letter dated 22 February 2013	None
Task Team	Actions from minutes	Meeting on 12 June 2013 at Gert Sibande District Municipality	Did not attend

DWS Action	Issues raised	Type of communication	Municipality response
Issued a communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan 	Letter dated 22 August 2013	None
Assessment of WWTW on 29 October 2013 and 13 March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non compliance letter 	Letter dated 24 March 2014	None

The Department allocated R 44 275 029 million to refurbish the Ermelo Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mpumalanga and the project commenced in March 2016 and to be completed on 31 January 2017.

---0000---