



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

2011-04-06

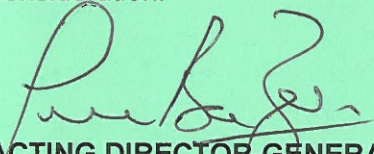
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Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

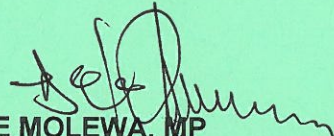
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 793 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr. MJ Ellies (DA); is attached for your consideration.


ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 5/04/2011

✓ 95 ✓
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 13-04-2011

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 793

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11 MARCH 2011
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 06)

793. Mr J.M Ellies (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has (a) been informed of and (b) investigated mine water pollution in the Wilge River affecting the Ezemvelo Nature Reserve; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether the cause of the pollution has been determined; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any (a) pre-notices, (b) directives or (c) criminal charges have been issued against any transgressor responsible for this pollution in terms of the National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether there are any plans in place to rehabilitate this (a) river and (b) affected areas in the nature reserve; if not, why not; if so, what plans?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) No, the Department was not informed of the alleged pollution.
- (1)(b) Yes, upon learning about this allegation during early March, the Department's Regional Office: Mpumalanga conducted an investigation on 14 March 2011 into the alleged mine water pollution.
- (2) No, the investigation conducted did not reveal any source of pollution as the sample taken did not indicate any elevated levels of concentration than the baseline concentrations in the Wilge River. The Regional Office: Mpumalanga will however continue with its monitoring programme to ensure that any future pollution/deviation can be timeously detected.
- (3)(a) No notice was issued as the investigation did not reveal pollution of the river and/or nature reserve.
- (3)(b) Falls away.
- (3)(c) Falls away.
- (4) Falls away.

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