



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 1654 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Ms J Steenkamp (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR ALF WILLS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1654 {NW1871E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2015

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 8 May 2015

Ms J Steenkamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department has received any complaints with regard to the air quality in the (a) Olifantsfontein, (b) Clayville, (c) Tswelopele and (d) Midstream areas of Gauteng; if so, (i) how many complaints and (ii) what action was taken in each regard;
- (2) (a) when last was the air quality in the specified areas tested and (b) what were the results of each of these tests;
- (3) what (a) are the names of the (i) businesses and/or (ii) organisations found to be polluting the air and (b) action has been taken against them;
- (4) (a) how many (i) businesses and/or (ii) organisations in the (aa) Olifantsfontein, (bb) Clayville, (cc) Tswelopele and (dd) Midstream areas have applied for (aaa) exemptions and (bbb) postponements from requirements in the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, Act 39 of 2004 and (b) what are their names?

1654. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

(1) (a), (b), (c),

The Department of Environmental Affairs has not received any complaints regarding air quality in the areas mentioned above.

(d) (i) and (d) (ii)

During the past 12 months, the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) received five (5) complaints relating to fugitive dust and odour. All of these complaints were investigated and addressed by the municipality. The facilities involved were issued with notices and in some instances were required to apply for Atmospheric Emission Licenses (AEL).

(2) (a) The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality currently operates a mobile ambient air quality monitoring station which has been in operation in the area since 2012;

(b) The station has measured particulate matter levels for PM₁₀ that are above the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels occasionally exceed the NAAQS mainly due to the large volume of heavy duty trucks that operate in the area. The rest of the pollutants measured at the station (oxides of nitrogen, benzene and ozone) are below the NAAQS

(3) (a) (i), (ii); and (b)

As indicated above, a number of facilities were issued with notices and instructed to apply for AELs during the investigations into complaints received by the municipality (*detailed information could not be obtained from the municipality before submission of the responses*).

In addition to the administrative action taken by the municipality, the DEA issued a compliance notice in 2010 to company by the name of ThermoPower. The facility took correction action as a result of the compliance notice and the municipality has indicated that the facility is currently in compliance with its AEL conditions

(4) (a) (i), (ii) (aa), (bb), (cc) and (dd) (aaa) and (bbb)

No applications for postponement were received from businesses and/or organisations operating in the areas mentioned above.

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