



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 2266 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to Mr R A Lees (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2266 {NW2625E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 21 of 2015

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 June 2015

Mr R A Lees (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Whether, with reference to the Eskom Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme in the Ladysmith district of KwaZulu-Natal and the Harrismith district of the Free State, her department has done any environmental impact assessments to ascertain the impact of the specified scheme on the Wilge River or Vaal River catchment area which (a) has been affected and/or (b) is anticipated to be affected by the resettlement of persons resident on the project site; if not, why not; if so, what are (i) the relevant details of completed assessments and (ii) the outcomes of the assessments? NW2625E

2266. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

- (a) Eskom lodged an application for environmental authorisation with the department for the proposed development of the Ingula Pump Storage Scheme (Braamhoek Pump Storage Scheme) in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 and GN R 1182 and 1183 of 5 September 1997. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) included the assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development on the Bedford-Chatsword Wetland and hence the Record of Decision included conditions related to the mitigation of impacts and management of the wetland.
- (b) The department is not aware of resettlements associated with the project.
- (i) The Record of Decision authorising this development dated 13 of December 2002 has a specific condition (condition 6.2.1 coming from recommendations made by a specialist) that requires Eskom to conduct bio-monitoring on the rivers/streams close to the site, namely, the Braamhoekspruit and the Bedfordspruit. In our most recent third party independent audit report dated March 2015, Eskom is in compliance with this requirement.
- (ii) The outcome of the EIA process was that a positive Record of Decision was granted by the department on 10 December 2002 (DEA Ref: A24/16/3/124).---oOo---