

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 1318**

### **Mr P van Dalen (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- (1) Whether an environmental impact assessment is done on all locations to where radioactive or nuclear goods are transported and where it is stored; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether there is a transport safety plan in place when such material is being transported over (a) land, (b) sea or (c) air; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) what precautionary measures does her department have in place in the event of a fleet transporting such material making an accident in an area not geared to manage such an incident or nuclear leak? NW1461E

### **REPLY**

- (1) Environmental impact assessments are required and undertaken for storage facilities for nuclear materials and radioactive waste. The EIA is done in terms of the EIA regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act.
- (2) In terms of the Regulations on Safety Standards and Regulatory Practises (R.388 of 26 April 2006) transport of radioactive material must be carried out in accordance with the IAEA Regulations for Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. The IAEA Regulations for Safe Transport of Radioactive Material are the world standard for transportation of nuclear materials by land, sea and air.
- (3) The transport plan covers physical security and emergency response plan. The primary responsibility for safe transport of materials lies with the owner of the materials. Therefore as part of the planning, standard precautionary measures are taken to limit chances of accidents (e.g. materials packaging, containment, monitoring and surveillance, and speed of vehicle). However should the need arise, a national radiological emergency response team comprising DoE, National Nuclear Regulator and Necs is already established. This team liaises with relevant entities in the transport environment, e.g. ACSA, SARS, Maritime Safety etc.