

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 1319

Dr S M van Dyk (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether all spent nuclear fuel is kept on the premises at the Koeberg nuclear power station; if so, why;
- (2) Whether the special pond used to store the spent fuel has reached its capacity; if so, (a) what plans are in place to accommodate the excess fuel and (b) how will this problem be solved permanently;
- (3) Whether there are any measures in place to dispose of the spent fuel in this pond; if not, why not; if so, (a) what measures and (b) what are the further relevant details? NW1462E

REPLY

- (1) All of Eskom's used nuclear fuel is currently stored in the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) used fuel pools and in the four dry storage casks which are located in the cask storage building at KNPS onsite. The storage of the used nuclear fuel at KNPS is licensed by the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR). Fuel is kept in licensed fuel storage pools which are built as part of the reactor facilities. There is no approved off site facility for storage of used nuclear fuel.
- (2) (a) The used fuel pools at KNPS have not reached capacity.
(b) The Radioactive Waste Management Policy of 2005 has outlined the following options for used nuclear fuel for further investigations:
 - Long term above ground storage on an off-site facility
 - Reprocessing, Conditioning and recycling
 - Deep geological storageThe National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute will manage radioactive waste on a national basis. This Institute is currently being established.
- (3) There are no immediate plans to dispose of the used fuel. That decision will be taken after processes outlined in (2) above have been completed.