



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 429

429. Mr J F Smalle (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- 1) Whether any discussions are taking place between (a) BHP Billiton, (b) Eskom and (c) her department to effect a reduction in the 1700MW to 2000MW electricity usage used by the aluminum plant to identify a significant electricity saving; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- 2) What (a) current electricity tariffs are charged at these two mines and (b) are the terms for determining these tariffs? NW573E

Reply

(1) (a) and (b)

Yes, Eskom continues to explore various options for demand reduction with all large customers. In addition Eskom relies on the electricity supply agreement between Eskom and BHP Billiton which makes provision for the temporary interruption of power to BHP Billiton's aluminium smelters subject to certain conditions.

(2) (a) and (b)

Information relating to customers is governed by commercial legal agreements and can therefore not be disclosed publicly. Eskom is therefore obliged to treat customer information in the strictest confidence and is therefore not in a position to disclose this information. As previously stated in PQ 105, although the South Gauteng High Court took a decision in August 2011 in favour of disclosure of the BHP Billiton tariffs, BHP Billiton has appealed the decision.