



**MINISTRY OF ENERGY**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION 40**

**Mrs M Wenger (DA) to ask the Minister of Energy:**

- (1) Whether any (a) potentially toxic or (b) radioactive spillage from a burst tailings dam of AngloGold Ashanti in the Stilfontein area was reported to the National Nuclear Regulator on 26 December 2012; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the spillage;
- (2) whether any action has been taken against AngloGold Ashanti; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any steps have been taken to ensure that a similar event does not occur again; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what steps have been taken to remediate the area affected by the spillage? NW42E

**Response:**

- (1) The NNR has no knowledge of the alleged slime spillage that is reported to have occurred on 26 December 2012, but can confirm that Mine Waste Solutions (a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti), holder of COR-30, operating in the Stilfontein area has reported a slime spillage resulting from heavy rainfall event (more than 54mm of rain in 30 minutes) that occurred on 25 December 2012; As a consequence of the event rainwater combined with slurry breached the containment of the tailings impoundment and spilled over onto the adjacent farm owned by Mr Jooste.
- (2) The authorisation holder was required to ensure that the impacted area is rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of the impacted farm, owned by Mr Jooste was initially delayed due to the fact that Mr Jooste denied access to his property. The NNR inspection conducted in January 2013 confirmed that the nuclear authorisation holder had implemented repair to the damaged tailings impoundment and that the threat of further environmental contamination had been abated.

- (3) The containment capacity at the tailings impoundment and associated pumping station has been increased. The authorisation holder is to undertake a detailed hydrological assessment including review of the current storm water infrastructure and identify improvements to be made to the existing infrastructure;
- (4) An action plan to rehabilitate the site has been compiled by the authorisation holder and submitted to the NNR for assessment. Further the authorisation holder has recently negotiated the purchase of the impacted land from its owner Mr Jooste.