



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: George Nel
Telephone: 051 405 9000
Reference: 16/2/7/C241/D4

The Municipal Manager
Matlosana Local Municipality
PO Box 99
KLERKSDORP
2570

COMPLAINT: NON FUNCTIONAL WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS (WWTW) AT KLERKSDORP

A complaint regarding sewage spills at Klerksdorp WWTW was received by this office in October 2014.

A site investigation was carried out on 20 November 2014 by the Compliance and Enforcement section of the DWS: Free State Regional Office.

The following was observed on the day of the inspection:

- The mechanical screens at the inlet are non functional due to missing motor and gearbox.
- Primary settling tank is not working due to missing pumps.
- At the Aeration basins 4 aerators are not working due to power, motor and gearbox problems.
- Out of 7 Secondary Clarifiers 5 are non functional.
- The discharge from the plant is polluting the Schoonspruit and this is causing problems for downstream users due to poor water quality.



Figure 1 & 2 – Mechanical Screens



Figure 3 – Primary settling tank



Figure 4 – Grit removal not taking place

Figure 3 shows the primary settling tank not functioning due to pumps not working at the plant.

Figure 4 shows grit removal not taking place at the inlet.



Figure 5 & 6 – Activated sludge and Aerators

Figure 5 & 6 shows the activated sludge basin with several aerators not working.



Figure 7 & 8 – Secondary Clarifiers

Figure 7 & 8 shows secondary clarifiers of which several are non functional

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The problems at the Klerksdorp WWTW are unacceptable and must be addressed by the Municipality. The Department is requesting a completed action plan with achievable time frames and budgets to be submitted to this office on or before 15 January 2014. Waste Water Infrastructure at the WWTW is in need of immediate attention and the municipality needs to make this a priority.

The Department is making the municipality aware of Section 19 (1) of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998:

- 19 (1) An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which –
- (a) any activity or process is or performed or undertaken; or
 - (b) any other situation exists.
- which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring.**
- (2) The measures referred to in subsection (1) may include measures to –
- (a) cease, modify or control any act or process causing the pollution;
 - (b) comply with any prescribed waste standard or management practice;
 - (c) contain or prevent the movement of pollutants;
 - (d) eliminate any source of the pollution;
 - (e) remedy the effects of the pollution; and
 - (f) remedy the effects of any disturbance to the beds and banks of a watercourse.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office for any enquiries on any of the given information.

Regards,



T Ntuli
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE
Letter signed by: Mr W Grobler
Designation: Deputy Director: Water Regulation

DATE: 8/12/2014