



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001. Fedsure Building, 315 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0002, Tel: (+27 12) 310 3911 Fax: (+27 12) 322 2682

Ref:

Enquiries: Ms Dee Fischer

Tel: 012 310 3857 Fax: 012 320 0941 Email: [dfischer@environment.gov.za](mailto:dfischer@environment.gov.za)

Mr. Leonie Joubert  
Communications: Environmental Monitoring Group  
10 Nuttal Rd  
Observatory  
**Cape Town**  
7935

Email: [communications@emg.org.za](mailto:communications@emg.org.za)

Dear Mr Joubert

### **RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE KAROO**

Your letter dated 13 February 2014 has reference.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) acknowledges receipt of your letter and noted your request for information in relation to the hydraulic fracturing in the Karoo.

In response, we note that until an application for Environmental Authorization is received, this Department's role with respect to hydraulic fracturing is to provide comments and inputs into the policy and legislative process. The two issues on which you requested information are not the mandate of this Department. Water protection is the responsibility of the Department of Water Affairs. DWA will therefore be able to provide more information on the protection of water resources from the possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing and the management of any spills should they occur.

The Environmental Management Programme which is currently required to be approved as part of the MPRD process will similarly identify the manner in which spills will be managed. The EMPR is approved by the Department of Mineral Resources prior to the Mining Right being issued.

You are therefore kindly requested to contact the Department of Water Affairs for further information in this regard.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Nosipho Ngcaba**

**Director-General**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**Letter signed by: Dee Fischer**

**Designation: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Management**

**Date:**