



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 466 {CW610E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28 of 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 27 August 2021

Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

When will the gas desulphurisation plant be completed as such a plant plays an integral part in removing sulphur from the flue gases after the combustion process to meet environmental requirements?

466. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

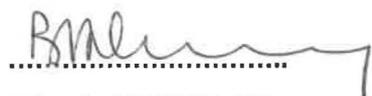
There are two facilities in the country that are known to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) that have either installed or are in the process of installing Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) technology as a means to abate the emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) to the atmosphere. These are Eskom's Kusile power station and Eskom's Medupi Power stations.

Kusile power station, which is located within the Nkangala District Municipality in Mpumalanga is commissioned with FGD and it is designed to operate six units, of which 3 have been brought into commercial operation between 2017 and 2021.

Regarding Medupi power station, which is located in Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo, FGD technology was not part of the original design, but plans were put in place to introduce FGD. Previous planning indicated that FGD would be installed at Medupi 6 years after completion of each unit thus between 2021 and 2026. Unfortunately, as stated by Eskom, there have been significant delays in the implementation of the project and in confirming funding which has led to a re-evaluation and consideration of an alternative approach in respect of SO₂ reduction. The alternative approach stated by Eskom considers the enablement of a Just Energy Transition Strategy for Eskom and further investigation into alternative less costly SO₂ reduction technologies. According to Eskom, the revised project strategy has been approved by Eskom Board and key stakeholders, but the project will not be completed by the 2025.

It is important to note that the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (act No. 39 of 2004) (Act) (NEM:AQA) does not prescribe the technology for abating emissions. It is entirely up to the operator to choose the appropriate technology that will ensure compliance with the Minimum Emission Standards.

Regards



**MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 10/3/2021