water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Be informed that the understanding of Blue Drop Certification and the Regulatory Performance Measurement System (RPMS) being interdependent is <u>definitely incorrect</u>.

The Department opted to perform the auditing of Drinking Water Quality and Water Services jointly as a means to minimise data sourcing and assessment cost. This exercise is termed Blue Water Services Audit to ensure that the complete value chain of the drinking water business is assessed during one activity. Yet the scoring and reporting will be done separately as before.

However, it should be noted that this does not imply that the one is less important than the other. The Water Services Regulation unit remains responsible for enforcing the relevant Norms and Standards promulgated under the Water Services Act, and this would include reporting on the Key Performance Indicators listed in the Strategic Framework for Water Services. The information which stems from the RPMS assessments is used to compile the Annual Water Services Performance Report, Ad hoc National Assembly reporting, as well as the Comparative Regulatory reporting/benchmarking (copies are available to all municipalities). All Water Services Institutions are thus encouraged to comply with Section 62 of the Water Services Act to furnish the Department with the information required to monitor water services performance.

The RPMS and related processes will be revamped in 2012 and you will have the opportunity to participate in this process, since we do endeavour to alleviate workload for all parties concerned.

Note that wastewater assessments this year will be less intensive since the end product would be a Green Drop Progress report. The audits that will inform the detailed 2013 Green Drop report are targeted to commence in August 2012.

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