

JANGARDUP MINERAL SANDS MINE, FLOCCULANT USE

13. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

In relation to the flocculant currently being trailed by Cable Sands at its Jangardup mineral sands mine -

- (1) What is the flocculant being trailed?
- (2) What are the constituents of the flocculant?
- (3) What compounds does the flocculant degrade into?
- (4) Does the presence of acid sulphate soils have any special reaction or effect with the flocculant being used by Cable Sands?
- (5) How much flocculant has been used at the Jangardup mine site to date?
- (6) Is the flocculant being used by Cable Sands at Jangardup the same type it proposes to use at the proposed Ludlow mineral sands mine?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) There are no flocculant trials at the Jangardup Mine. The same flocculant has been used since the beginning of operations.
- (2) The flocculant used is NALCO 98AUS047. The constituents of the flocculant are listed in the Material Safety Data Sheet. I now table the Material Safety Data Sheet for NALCO 98AUS047. Aluminium sulphate has also been used as a flocculant for water supplies. [See paper No 190.]
- (3) The flocculant breaks down into acrylamide and acrylic acid.
- (4) The effectiveness of the flocculant is pH dependant. However, no indications of poor performance of the flocculant have been detected, suggesting that low pH and increased sulphate concentrations in the groundwater are not affecting the flocculant performance.
- (5) The application rate of the flocculant is 1-1.5kg per dry tonne of clay fines. The total volume of flocculant used to date at the Jangardup Mine is unknown at this stage, however Cable Sands have been requested to compile this information and provide it to the DEP.
- (6) It is expected that the same flocculant will be used for the proposed Ludlow mine.