



9 January 2017

Ms Toinette van der Merwe
Department of Environmental Affairs
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Dear Toinette

**PROPOSED MARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ACE CABLE SYSTEM) TO BE LANDED AT
VAN RIEBEECKSTRAND ON THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR AUTHORITY COMMENT AND DECISION
MAKING (EIA REFERENCE 14/12/16/3/3/2/988)**

Scoping, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the above project, has been underway since July 2016. A Final Scoping Report (FSR) has been prepared in terms of the current Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, published in Government Notices R 982, 983, 984 and 985 of 4 December 2014 under Section 24(5) read with Sections 24, 24D and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended).

Based on the current regulations, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must complete Scoping and the Impact Assessment within 300 days of acceptance of the Application for Authorisation by the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). It is also envisaged that a Water Use Licence will be required from the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of Chapter 4 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998), in particular, Section 40(4). The FSR is now available for review and comment by the authorising authority.

Please Note:

1. The FSR is also available on ACER's website: www.acerafrica.co.za under 'Current Projects' for public review should registered I&APs wish to review the document.
2. Organs of state such as the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Government Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning have received full versions of the DSR.
3. A letter will be sent to all Registered Interested and Affected Parties informing them of the submission of the Final Scoping Report to the DEA and the availability of the FSR on the ACER website for review.
4. A letter will be sent to all registered Interested and Affected Parties informing them of DEA's decision on the Final Scoping Report.

Proposed Marine Telecommunications System (Ace Cable System) to be landed at Van Riebeeckstrand on the West Coast of South Africa

Availability of the Final Scoping Report for Authority Consideration

On behalf of the Project Team, I should like to thank everyone who has already participated during the Scoping Phase.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

Mr. G Churchill

Environmental Assessment Practitioner