

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION  
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) PROCESS**

**PROPOSED MARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (EQUIANO CABLE SYSTEM) TO BE LANDED AT MELKBOSSTRAND ON THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Proponent: Telkom SA SOC Limited, acting through its division Openserve (hereafter referred to as “Openserve”)**

Openserve is proposing to install a submarine telecommunications cable, called the Equiano Cable System, to link South Africa with key international telecommunications hubs in Europe and Africa. As the designated Landing Partner of the Equiano Cable System in South Africa, Openserve, which has the required licenses to operate the system in South Africa, aims to secure local permits to land the cable at Melkbosstrand. [The cable laying across approximately 11,500 km of ocean is being coordinated by Alcatel Submarine Networks on behalf of Openserve].

**Environmental Authorization Process**

In terms of the amended EIA Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, the proposed development of the Equiano Cable System triggers several listed activities in terms Listing Notice 1 (No. R. 983) and Listing Notice 2 (No. R. 984) as amended, in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of NEMA, which require environmental authorisation via the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) is the competent authority for the issuing of environmental authorisation for this proposed development. Should a Water Use License be required, an application will be submitted to the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation in terms of Chapter 4 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998), particularly, Section 40(4).

On behalf of Openserve, ACER will fulfil the role and responsibilities of Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment and the associated public participation process, and to submit the required application and supporting documentation to DEFF for consideration and decision-making.

**Invitation to Participate**

To register as an Interested and/or Affected Party and to obtain further information related to the proposed project, please contact the Public Participation Office:

**Carina Boonzaaier or Giles Churchill**  
**P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867 Tel: 035 340 2715**  
**Fax: 035 340 2232 E-mail: [equiano@acerafrica.co.za](mailto:equiano@acerafrica.co.za)**

Please note that consistent with GNR 326, 42(a), 44 (1) and 19(1)(a) (7 April 2017) all comments received will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report which will be made available to the competent authority and which will be placed in the public domain as part of the public review process of the EIA reports.