

Notice of Environmental Authorisation Process

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

Notice is hereby given in terms of the amended EIA Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended, of Telkom SA SOC Limited, acting through its division Openserve (hereafter referred to as "Openserve"), intention to install a submarine telecommunications cable, called the Equiano Cable System, to link South Africa with key international telecommunications hubs in Europe and Africa. Openserve has the required licenses to operate the system in South Africa and, as the designated Landing Partner of the Equiano Cable System in South Africa, Openserve aims to secure local permits to land the cable at Melkbosstrand.

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants

Location of the Project

The proposed Equiano Cable System will make landfall at Melkbosstrand and the cable will terminate at the existing Telkom Cable Landing Station in Melkbosstrand.

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of the amended EIA Regulations published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, the proposed development of the Equiano Cable System triggers several listed activities and requires environmental authorisation via the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Listed Activities	
Listing Notice 1: No. R. 327 of April 2017	Activities 15,17, 18 and 19A
Listing Notice 2: No. R. 325 of April 2017	Activities 14 and 26

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). It is anticipated that this process will be completed by September 2020.

Invitation to Participate

Interested and Affected Parties are requested to register with ACER and to provide their comments. A Background Information Document and Notification Letter, including a Registration and Comment Sheet can be obtained from the ACER Public Participation Office. For further information, please contact:

Carina Boonzaaier or Giles Churchill

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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.