



Environmental Protection Agency

Notice to the Public

Pursuant to Section 11(2) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has screened the application for the grant of an Environmental Permit for the following proposed project:

Mabura Five Sawmill – Operation of a Sawmill, Furniture workshop, and Charcoal Production facility at: Track 'WB', Bamia, Right Bank Demerara River Region 10.

The EPA has determined that this project will not significantly affect the environment, and is therefore exempt from the requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The reasons for EPA's decision include:

1. Noise and vibration will emanate from the use of circular and band saws; edger, and planer; loading and unloading of trucks; air compressors; and power generator. To mitigate noise and vibrations during its operations the project will:
 - a. Install silencers/mufflers on all equipment/machinery as necessary and place them on a concrete foundation.
 - b. Conduct regular maintenance of machinery and equipment;
 - c. House the generator in a generator room, equipped with an exhaust stack.
 - d. Limit the loading and offloading of lumber to between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. from Mon.-Sat; tyres will be used during offloading to dampen noise.

2. Wood dust produced during sawing and sanding activities and fine particles produced during combustion of fuel by the generator and other machinery may become airborne. To reduce/control airborne dust the project will:

- a. Install a dust extractor system to remove and channel dust to a containment bin; and
 - b. Conduct daily removal of sawdust from the mill floor.
3. Make wood waste (chips and shavings) available to the community for them to collect and reuse of for land filling, mulch or compost.
4. A variety of pollutants, particulates, and gases (i.e., volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and particulate matter) can be release into the air during charcoal pit burning. To minimise harmful pollutants, wood will be packed with limited space between them as well as overloading of the pit will be avoided. Further pits will only be dug based of the availability and amount of wood.
5. During the operational phase of charcoal production, waste generated may include ash and residual charcoal fines from the charcoal production process. To ensure that waste from charcoal production is non-hazardous, appropriate waste management practices will be implemented at each stage of the charcoal production process i.e ash will be mixed with soil to produce biochar. Proper handling, storage, and disposal of waste materials in keeping with the Environmental Permit Conditions will be strictly implemented to reduce the environmental and health impacts of charcoal production.
6. The impacts of noise and vibration from sawing equipment (table saws, mitre saw and band saws), wood processing machinery (edger, planer, jointer, drill press and router), loading and unloading operations (trucks; pneumatic systems (air compressors; and energy conversion system (power generator) will be effectively mitigated by:
 - a. Installation of silencers/mufflers on equipment;
 - b. Placement of equipment on concrete foundation;
 - c. Regular maintenance of machinery and equipment;
 - d. Housing generator in an appropriately enclosed room, equipped with an exhaust stack; and
 - e. Limiting loading and offloading of lumber to between 06:00 h to 18:00h from Mon.-Sat.

Please be advised that this decision is in no way an indication that this project is approved.

The reasons for our decision are available at the following links on our website:

Project Summary Tab-

<https://epaguyana.org/download/mabura-five-sawm...-project-summary/>

Any person who may be affected by the proposed project may lodge an appeal against the Agency's decision (EIA not required) within thirty (30) days of the publication of this Notice. *Appeals against the EPA's decision should be addressed to:*

The Chairman
The Environmental Assessment Board
E-mail: eabguyana21@gmail.com
Website: www.epaguyana.org