



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:

1. Thor Mining Guyana Exploration Inc. (TMGEI) - T-12/MP/002, Aremu, Region #7. Cuyuni Mining District #4,

“Gold Leaching Projects introduces a new technology to Guyana, employing Jinchan, a leachate agent, to recover gold from tailings material produced by past small-scale mining operations. This initiative aligns with Guyana's commitment to implement mercury-free technologies in the mining sector as part of its objectives under the Minamata Convention. The National Action Plan outlines chemical leaching as one of the strategies for the reduction of mercury use.”

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) have agreed to pilot the use of Jinchan leaching in medium-scale mining, thereby removing mercury from these operations. This partnership aims at ensuring the oversight and implementation of appropriate safeguards to minimize environmental impacts on the surrounding environment.

The EPA has determined that these proposed pilot projects will not significantly affect the environment and has been exempted from the requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, an Environmental Assessment and Management Plan is required of these projects. The reasons for its decision include:

1. Impacts have been characterized to be of medium to low significance since the project site is located in the Potaro Mining District # 4 and is surrounded by similar land use activities.
2. Impacts from noise will be low to moderate and will be periodic. Impacts will be confined to the production activities area. Employees will wear their necessary protective gear to minimise the impact of noise during operation.
3. Air quality impacts will not be significant because all impacts would be within the confines of the immediate project area and will be effectively mitigated by preventative maintenance of heavy-duty machinery and the implementation of control measures such as wet suppression and buffer zones.



4. Impacts to biodiversity and habitats will not be significant because there will be no clearing of vegetation and the extraction of materials will be done in stages allowing for more effective management and control of impacts which will, in turn, reduce habitat destruction.
5. Surface water quality impacts will not be significantly affected by sediment load occurring from loose soil and sediments in storm runoff because there will be no direct discharge of effluent into any Creek or surface water body.
6. The developer will ensure that waste will be recycled and reused as well as utilise appropriate disposal techniques in keeping with the Agency's Hazardous Waste Guidelines.

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/thor-mining-guya...-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