



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

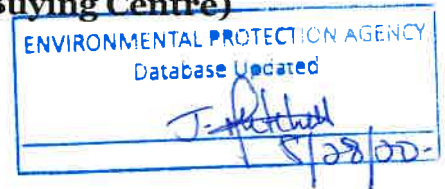
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Operation Permit

Issued under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

Reference No.:	20191101-NHBSP
Fee	Small (C1) US\$ 500 (5 years) i.e. US\$ 100 per year
Fee paid :	US\$ 500 (May 2020 to April 2025)

Addressee(s): Mr. Nazeemul Hakh
Proprietor
Vilvoorden Investment Inc. (Paradise Buying Centre)
Block 'K' Golden Fleece,
Essequibo Coast



Activity: Operation of a Paddy Buying and Storage Centre

Nazeemul Hakh, hereinafter referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to operate a Paddy Buying and Storage Centre, located at Paradise, Essequibo Coast, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on November 01, 2019 and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein and any forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection Act and or any applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by Permit Holder:

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes in operation of the Paddy Buying and Storage Centre at least **fourteen (14) days** before making the change. The notification shall contain a **description of the proposed change in operation**. It is not necessary to make such a notification if **an Application to vary** this Permit has been made and the Application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition '**change in operation**' means

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a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension, of the installation, which may have consequences for the environment, including but not limited to the following:

- 1.1.1 Changes in construction, structure, layout of the facility;
 - 1.1.2 Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation; and
 - 1.1.3 Any technology installed at the facility from which effluent may be discharged.
- 1.2 Ensure that good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices and the aesthetic quality of the surroundings are maintained at all times.
- 1.3 Make all employees aware of the conditions of this Operation Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices inclusive of emergency response.
- 1.4 Practice integrated pest control management. Ensure that all pest control applications are conducted either by a Pest Control Operator (PCO) who is registered and certified by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) or an employee of the Paddy Buying and Storage Centre who is certified by the PTCCB as a Pest Control Operative. Please note if the employee is selected as the Pest Control Operative then the Centre should be licensed to conduct the pest control activity. In the case of an employee as a Pest Control Operative, the following should be adhered to:
 - a) Ensure the Pest Control Operative is equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) during the mixing and application of pesticide including the spraying and rinsing operations.
 - b) Use only pesticides that are approved for use in Guyana by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board. Pesticides should be mixed in accordance with the pesticides label directions.
 - c) Employees and visitors entering the area should at all times, be well protected. Ensure that each employee is equipped with Personal Protective Equipment corresponding with his/her activity during operation of the paddy buying and storage centre for example, protective headwear, respirators (e.g. N 95 filters or N 95 mask), safety vests, and safety boots, goggles etc.

2.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

2.2 Employ particulate matter/dust suppression methods such as wet suppression, erecting dust screens/fences etc. to control particulate matter/dust emissions from the facility.

2.3 Develop maintenance and cleaning schedule to reduce dust accumulation on ledges, floor and other exposed surfaces.

3.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

3.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**

3.2 Ensure all mechanical equipment (including noise-making equipment) are maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

3.3 Comply with the *Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines* for Noise Emissions into the Environment for **Residential Limits** i.e. not exceeding:

- **75 dB during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h);** and
- **60 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h),** at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.

3.4 Equip all generators with silencers and/or mufflers, so as to reduce the levels of noise emitted into the environment.

3.5 Operate all sound-making devices (e.g. generators) from within a completely enclosed and properly sound-attenuated room to achieve compliance with Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) requirements.

4.0 WATER QUALITY

4.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**

4.2 Not discharge or dump solid waste (such as paddy husk, paddy ash, etc.) and/or trade effluent directly into the receiving waters.

4.3 Sweep, shovel or vacuum spilt ingredients prior to cleaning. Solid material should NOT be washed into surrounding drains.

- 4.4 Install and maintain mesh/sieve at the end of the drains discharging wastewater from the Buying Centre into the canal. Recovered solid waste should be properly disposed in the Solid Waste Pit or at an approved Land filled site.
- 4.5 Maintain drainage systems capable of handling the probable maximum precipitation storm event.
- 4.6 Ensure the drainage network is kept free of debris and/or vegetation.
- 4.7 Conduct equipment refueling and maintenance on an impervious base to prevent fuel spills/leaks. Oil spills should be cleaned-up by the best practicable means, to prevent runoff into the waterways.

5.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Ensure that in the event of paddy husks/chaff accumulating on site, the heap height shall not exceed 2 meters and wet suppression methods shall be used to reduce dust pollution during the transport of paddy chaff to surrounding areas.
- 5.2 Dispose of any additional unused paddy husk, paddy impurities and any other solid waste at a disposal site approved by the Neighbourhood Democratic Council. Prior to disposal of the waste paddy husk, it should be placed in polystyrene bags and secured to prevent it being blown by wind on to the surrounding areas.
- 5.3 When transporting the waste paddy husk to the disposal site, ensure that all bagged waste paddy husk is securely packaged in the transport vehicle and that it is offloaded in a manner so as to prevent tearing.
- 5.4 Maintain a septic system on site at all times. The septic tank should not be located within 1.5 m of a building or property boundary and should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the Septic tanks must be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of Septic Tanks and Associated Secondary Treatment and Disposal Systems.

6.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 6.2 Prepare and submit to the Agency no later than **forty-five (45) days** after the end of each operating year, a report relating to the activities for the previous year. The

report shall include:

- (a) The identification of the facility
 - (b) Type and quantities of hazardous waste generated
 - (c) Data concerning off-site shipments of waste
 - (d) Any applied treatment standards
 - (e) A summary of any accidents that may have occurred and any action taken
 - (f) Any waste minimisation efforts undertaken by the generator on by the generator
 - (g) A pollution prevention plan for the facility
 - (h) Any other matter the Agency may require
- Not applicable. Visited on Oct 5, 2021 and there is evidence of fuel storage and minor maintenance is done which will not generate 20 kg of hazardous waste. This condition should be removed*

The Agency considers all materials listed in Schedules I and II of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000, to be hazardous. Please see attached list of Hazardous Wastes to be controlled.

- 6.3 Submit the report of activities for the previous year in an electronic format acceptable to the Agency, along with a hard copy that is signed by the Permit Holder.
- 6.4 Ensure that oil/fuel contaminated adsorbent materials are appropriately stored in a structure with a concrete base, away from water ways and disposed of in double-wrapped heavy duty garbage bags at an approved solid waste disposal site.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

- 7.1 Obtain approval from the Guyana Fire Service and provide fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with this approval. Ensure **all firefighting** equipment are maintained and serviced regularly.
- 7.2 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as maintaining and placing firefighting equipment, such as, fire extinguisher and sand bucket, at a visible location on site, in accordance with guidelines established by the Guyana Fire Service.
- 7.3 Treat and contain spills of even a minor nature with absorbent materials.
- 7.4 Maintain a supply of oil-absorbent materials such as absorbent pads, sand, etc., at the site for the clean-up of spills.
- 7.5 Ensure that appropriate clean-up equipment such as spill trays, oil spill clean-up recover pump, oil spill dispersant spray system or sorbent pads are readily

accessible during refueling exercises.

8.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING & REPORTING

- 8.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies.
- 8.2 Notify the Agency in writing of any change of name or ownership of the Permit Holder's facility within **thirty (30) days** after the change occurs.
- 8.3 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all other third parties under your direction.
- 8.4 Assign an individual responsible for coordinating environmental management, monitoring for compliance, reporting to the EPA, implementing the conditions of this Permit.
- 8.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 8.6 Notify the Agency within **twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 8.7 Make all employees aware of the Conditions of the Operation Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices.
- 8.8 Establish and maintain a Record of Incidents which should include but not be limited to:
 - Date and time of incident;
 - Description of incident;
 - Persons involved in incident;
 - Response measures employed;
 - Remedial measures taken/put in place to prevent the recurrence of incident.
- 8.9 Report to the Agency of non-compliance with the Operation Permit:
 - I. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Operation Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.

- II. Within **seventy-two (72) hours**, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause and the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time.
 - III. Submit a report to the Agency indicating the reasons and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance has not been corrected.
- 8.10 Submit Annual Reports to the EPA on the progress of the operation and compliance with the conditions under which this Permit was granted on or before **March 31** of each year. Please see attached reporting format.
- 8.11 Comply with any lawful directions given by the EPA from time-to-time in furtherance of the implementation of any international or other obligation for the environmental protection of Guyana.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND LIABILITIES

- 9.0 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's operation as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.1 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit, which also includes the review and/or amendment of Permit Fees in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 9.2 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.3 The Permit Holder shall, at all times, allow entry to the Permitted facility to any Officer designated by the EPA for the purposes of conducting inspections or any other legitimate business of the Agency. Pursuant to s.38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence **to assault, obstruct or hinder** an authorized person in the execution of his/her duty under the said Act or its Regulations and the Permit Holder shall be liable to penalties prescribed under paragraph (c) of the Fifth Schedule for doing so.
- 9.4 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the Environment or any damage to public health, issue to the Permit Holder a

Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity, s. 27 EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.


- 9.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 9.6 The Permit Holder shall be strictly liable for any loss or damage to the environment through any act caused intentionally or recklessly, through the adverse effect of any discharge or release, or cause or permit the entry of pollution, contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by any Environmental Authorisation which are attributed to the Project, s. 19 (1) (2) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.7 The Permit Holder shall compensate any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the attributed Project (s. 19 (3) (e)) EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.8 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as a result of the Permit Holder's lack of due care and diligence.
- 9.9 The Permit Holder shall be liable of any gross negligence or willful misconduct caused by the Permit Holder, his Servants and/or Agents, to the biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat.
- 9.10 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **May 2020 to April 2025**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **April 31, 2024**, unless otherwise suspended, modified, varied or cancelled in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.11 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **November 30, 2024**.
- 9.12 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, shall require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (GY\$2000.00) per day** for every day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.

- 9.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to civil penalties and/or injunctive relief prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana and the Environmental Protection Regulations, including under any existing and forthcoming regulations made under the said Act or any other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by  on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Dr. Vincent Adams
Executive Director

Date: May 13, 2020

I hereby accept the above terms and conditions upon which this Operation Permit is granted and agree to abide by the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any existing or forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	KIRAN RAMKOOBAR
DESIGNATION:	FINANCE MANAGER
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	2020/5/14