



## 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 Regulations, 2000.

Reference No.:	20200116-VDBCW
Fees:	Small (C1) US\$100 per year
Fee Paid:	US\$500 Five (5) Years (February, 2021 to January, 2026)

Addressee(s): Mrs. Vilma De Silva  
Henvil Farm  
Grant Beach Profit  
Lower Pomeroon River  
Region 2.



Activity: Operation of a Bottled Coconut Water Plant

Vilma De Silva, trading and operating under the name, Henvil Farm, 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 Bottled Coconut Water Plant, located at Grant Beach Profit Lower, Pomeroon River, referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on June 26, 2019, and the Waste Management Plan submitted on November 22, 2020, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this Project.

The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall comply with the following Terms and Conditions:

### 1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes to the operation **at least fourteen (14) days** prior to 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 a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension, or any additional installation, which may have

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consequences for the environment. Changes to operation may include but not be limited to the following:

- a) Changes in construction, structure, or layout of the facility, plant or building;
  - b) Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation;
  - c) Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be emitted from.
  - d) Any other variance prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Conduct all operation activities within the Bottled Coconut Water Plant (**BCWP**) in accordance with measures outlined in the **Approved Waste Management Plan, 2020**), unless otherwise authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
  - 1.3 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and/or sand buckets in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service's approval.
  - 1.4 Maintain a valid Fire Safety Certificate from the Guyana Fire Service. **All** firefighting equipment must be maintained and serviced on a regular basis. The Fire Certificate must be presented to officers of the Agency upon request, during compliance inspections and in **Annual Reports**.
  - 1.5 Footbaths containing a disinfectant **must** be maintained at the entrances of the sleeving and processing rooms. The usage of these facilities **shall be mandatory** before entrance into these areas.
  - 1.6 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the Project Site.
  - 1.7 **All** pest control applications **must** be conducted by a pest control operative who is **certified** by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board (PTCCB).
  - 1.8 Use only pesticides that are approved for use in Guyana by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board (PTCCB).
  - 1.9 **All** empty agro-chemical containers must be decontaminated before disposal. Options for decontamination include, the triple resining of containers or decontamination in accordance with instruction contained in the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the agro-chemicals used. All rinsate generated during the triple-rinsing process must be disposed by pouring into a spray can and applying on vegetation away from waterways. Empty agro-chemical containers

after draining for a minimum of 30 seconds, must be punctured and disposed of in a designate waste disposal area.

## **2.0 EMPLOYEES AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 2.1 All employees must be equipped with and trained in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to fit their job specification such as: chaps for chainsaw operators, hi-visibility vests, respirator (N95 filters or N95 mask), hard hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear. The Permit Holder shall ensure appropriate utilisation of these gears. A log for the distribution of PPE to employees must be maintained. Evidence of distribution log must be presented to officers of the Agency upon request during compliance inspections.
- 2.2 A first aid kit equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards must be located on site at times. Additionally, communication and transportation systems must be in place to respond to emergencies.
- 2.3 Ensure that all employees are trained in the use of the fire extinguishers and firefighting protocols.
- 2.4 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of the Operation Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which must be available upon Officers' request during a Compliance Inspection. A summary of such activities must be included in the **Annual Report**.

## **3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- 3.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulation 2013**.
- 3.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surrounding at all times.
- 3.3 Promote proper solid waste management practices at Project site. Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations, both inside and outside the Facility. All solid waste collected in bins must be appropriately stored until disposal in accordance with measures outlined in **WMP, 2020**.
- 3.4 **All** coconut shells/fibres must be disposed of in accordance with measures outlined in **Approved Waste Management Plan, 2020**
- 3.5 Maintain a drainage system at the facility and ensure that the land is levelled and appropriately built up to avoid floods and contamination of the receiving waters.



- 3.6 Ensure that the drainage network is kept free of debris and vegetation. Regular cleaning of the drainage network must be maintained.
- 3.7 Maintain a septic tank system which should be accessible for cleaning and de-sludging. Any modification to the septic tank (s) 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*.

#### **4.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT**

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

- 4.1 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for noise emission into the environment, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.
  - **Industrial Limits 100dB** (Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h))
- 4.2 Implement all possible measures, such as, ensuring equipment is serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound excessive levels on the environment.
- 4.3 The exhaust stack of generator must have a height of at least two (2) metres above the tallest nearby building to minimise the impact of air emissions to contiguous areas.

#### **5.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

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

- 5.1 Ensure that discharges into the environment are in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) *Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharges into the Environment*: These limits should not be exceeded:
  - pH (5.0-9.0);
  - Total Suspended Solids (TSS <50 mg/L);
  - Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <50 mg/L);
  - Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD <250 mg/L);
  - Total Nitrogen (< 10mg/L)
  - Total Phosphorous (<0.2 mg/L); and
  - Residual Chlorine (<0.2 mg/L).

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- 5.2 Store **all** oils, fuel, paints and chemicals in a designated area, at least ten (10) metres away from watercourses. The base of the designated storage area (s) must be constructed of an impervious material, such as, concrete.

## **6.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTES MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000, as follows:

- 6.1.2 Construct a fuel containment bund for the fuel storage tanks. The containment bund must have the capacity to store 110% of the volume of fuel stored in the tank.
- 6.1.3 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e. fuel, waste oil, pesticides) to ground water or soil from the permitted installation. Any accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water must be recorded and reported **within twenty-four (24) hours** to the Agency for further investigation.
- 6.1.4 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the Rice Mill. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Wastes at the Rice Mill.
- 6.1.5 Store waste oil in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is considered an offence under Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act and contrary to the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or in water ways.
- 6.1.6 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 6.1.7 Waste oils, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers must be appropriately labelled, and stored in a containment bund with an impervious surface until such time for reuse or sale to an authorised dealer.
- 6.1.8 All necessary precautionary measures must be observed during the transport of fuels to the Project site. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and/or use of all Hazardous Materials/Wastes.
- 6.2 Corrosion control measures must be instituted to prevent/minimize the corrosion of the fuel tanks and piping systems.

## **7.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Operation Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 7.3 Submit to the EPA **Environmental Annual Report** on the status of the project, progress of the implementation of the monitoring activities and compliance with the conditions contained herein by **March 31** every year.
- 7.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation Permit is granted. The Permit Holder, His Agents, and/or Sub-contractors shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the activities attributable to the project or breach of any term or condition of this Permit.
- 7.5 Inform the Agency prior to or **within thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 7.6 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holders or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 7.7 Notify the EPA **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies such as a sudden onset disaster, accident, natural, technological or human induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood.
- 7.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Operation Permit as follows:
  - 7.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Permit Holder becomes aware of the non-compliance, the anticipated manner in which it may endanger human health or the environment.
  - 7.8.2 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.
  - 7.8.3 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.

## **8.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES**

- 8.1 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 Regulations, 2000.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.4 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 Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, it is an offence to assault, obstruct or hinder an authorised 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.
- 8.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained and maintained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 8.6 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall be strictly jointly and severally liable as follows:
  - a. For any activity that causes, or is likely to cause pollution of the environment, unless all reasonable and practicable measures were taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, in accordance with Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
  - b. For any activity which results in the discharge, release or entry into the environment of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Permit, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05 Laws of Guyana.
  - c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as sludge, wastewater, hydraulic fluids, lubricants, fuel, chemicals, hazardous materials or other wastes relative to the Project, which are not regulated herein, or permitted to be discharged



herein, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be deemed a violation of Section 19(1)(a) and/or Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act.

- d. For the compensation of any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the project. (s.19(3)(e)) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
  - e. For any material or serious environmental harm caused by pollution of the environment intentionally or recklessly in accordance with section 39 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Environmental Protection Act, 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
  - f. Any gross negligence or willful misconduct resulting in serious risk, or adverse effects to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil, or lubricants from any facilities permitted under this project.
  - g. For the payment of all costs and expenses related to the assessment of damage and investigations required, as result of any pollution incidents attributable or likely to be attributable to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.
- 8.7 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 lack of due care and diligence.
- 8.8 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, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.9 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is likely to contravene any condition of this Permit, the Agency (EPA) may serve on him an Enforcement Notice in accordance with Section 26 of the EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.10 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **February, 2021 to January, 2026**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **January 31, 2025**, unless otherwise modified; cancelled, suspended or revoked 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 Regulations, 2000.



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- 8.11 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 **June 30, 2025**.
- 8.12 Any late submission of renewal application 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 business day late**, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 8.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.

Signed by



on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**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 the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.**

<b>NAME:</b>	<i>Vilma De Silva</i>
<b>DESIGNATION:</b>	<i>Proprietress</i>
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	<i>Vilma De Silva</i>
<b>DATE:</b>	<i>15-04-2021</i>

