



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Environmental Permit (Renewed)

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.:	20190305-GISPH
Fees:	Medium (C2) US\$4000 for Five (5) Years i.e., US\$800 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$800 (5 years: September 2022 to August 2027)

Addressee(s): **Mr. Raoul Gopie
Proprietor
Gopie Investments Inc
Lot P, New Hope,
East Bank Demerara.**

Activity: **Operation of the Seafood Processing Plant**

Gopie Investments Inc., 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 the Seafood Processing Plant, located at Lot P, New Hope, East Bank Demerara, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Renewal Application submitted on July 19, 2022, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

Terms and Conditions for Operation to be adhered to by the Permit Holder, His Servants and/or Agents:

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1** Make an application to the Agency to vary this Permit in instances where it becomes necessary to:

- i. change the construction, operation, structure, or layout of the facility and all associated buildings;
 - ii. change equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility;
 - iii. change the position and design of any outlet at the point or points of discharge of effluents; or
 - iv. effect any other change outlined in Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 Continue to promote the conservation and efficient use of energy. Options for energy efficiency include but not limited to those identified below:
 - Maintain the use of the Energy Star labeled appliances and the compact fluorescent lamps/LED lights to reduce energy consumption;
 - Implement switch-off programs and install sensors to turn off or power down lights and equipment when not in use; and
 - Improved insulation on heating or cooling systems and pipe works.
- 1.3 Foot baths containing disinfectant must be maintained at the entrances of the fish and shrimp sections of the Plant and its use must be mandatory before entry.
- 1.4 Ensure all working and storage areas are cleaned pre and post production. Remove waste products immediately from the production line to avoid contamination.
- 1.5 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) approval.
- 2.0 EMPLOYEES AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**
 - 2.1 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.
 - 2.2 Ensure that all employees are trained in the use of the fire extinguishers and firefighting protocols.
 - 2.3 Ensure employees are trained in the correct use of the cutting equipment including the use of machine safety devices, handling/storage and upkeep of knives, and emergency shutoff procedures.

- 2.4 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of the Environmental Permit and provide training on good environmental management practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which should be available upon Officers' request during a Compliance Inspection.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013**, where applicable.
- 3.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 3.3 Promote proper solid waste management practices at Project site. Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations, both in and outside of the operation. Domestic and office waste should be separated and collected in these receptacles and disposed of at Haags Bosch Landfill Site. Reuse, recycle and/ or compost waste materials as far as practicable.
- 3.4 All solid waste generated from the Seafood Processing Plant (i.e., viscera, fins, scales, shrimp and fish heads and carapace, etc.) must be stored in leak-proof and covered containers. All solid waste collected in these containers must be disposed of on a daily basis at an approved waste disposal facility.
- 3.5 The disposal of solid waste on the foreshore or in the Demerara River is **strictly prohibited**.
- 3.6 Equip the floor drains and outlets of wastewater channels with the appropriate grids and screens, and/or traps, to reduce the concentration of solids entering the Demerara River.
- 3.7 Maintain a septic tank system at all times 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 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTES MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000**.

- 4.3 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) 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.
- 4.4 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the operation. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Wastes at the Seafood Processing Plant.
- 4.5 Store waste oil in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, in drains or water ways.
- 4.6 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Ensure that an appropriate spill containment kit is located onsite. The kit should contain absorbent materials to absorb spilt oil and/or other liquids.

5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 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.
 - **Commercial Limits 80 dB** (Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h))
65 dB (Night-time (18:00h – 06:00h))
- 5.3 Ensure all significant noise-producing equipment, e.g., generator (s), water treatment plant, peelers, graders, etc. are equipped with appropriate silencers or mufflers and/or are enclosed in suitable acoustic enclosures where necessary to reduce noise levels impacting the surrounding environment to achieve compliance with *Guyana National Bureau of Standards* (GNBS) requirement.

- 5.3 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations that are properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 5.4 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment and machines are serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.

6.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.**
- 6.2 Maintain the integrity of the **Demerara River**. Discharges into the environment should be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment. The limits below should not be exceeded:
 - a) Temperature (<40°C);
 - b) pH (5.0-9.0);
 - c) Total Suspended Solids (TSS <100 mg/l);
 - d) Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <50 mg/l);
 - e) Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD <250 mg/l)
 - f) Oil and Grease (< 10 mg/l);
 - g) NH₃ (<5 mg/l);

Further, monitor the parameters on a bi-annual basis (in the rainy and dry seasons) and submit the results as part of your Annual Report. A minimum of three (3) sampling point should be monitored a) at final discharge point b) an upstream sample and a downstream sample.

- 6.3 The discharge or dumping of solid waste and/or untreated effluent directly into the **Demerara River** is **strictly prohibited**.
- 6.4 Promote the conservation of water resources by minimizing water consumed and reusing where possible.
- 6.5 Monitor the daily consumption of water and provide the data to the EPA as part of your Annual Report required in Permit Condition 7.3
- 6.6 Ensure that the drainage system is free of debris and/ or vegetation. Regular cleaning of the drainage network and the immediate environs must be conducted.

- 6.7 Equip all drainage outlet systems with screens and fat traps to reduce the amount of solid material in the waste water.

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 Environmental Permit (Renewed), insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 7.3 Submit to the EPA, the **Environmental Annual Reports** 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 (Please see attached, the *Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Annual Reports*).
- 7.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) is granted and shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the Permit Holder's activities 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 Holder 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(s) with the Environmental Permit (Renewed):
- 7.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance(s), 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(s), 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 and its regulations.
- 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, His Servants and/or Agents 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 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 Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant permission(s) should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 8.6 The Permit Holder shall compensate any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the attributed Project (See: s. 19 (3)(e)) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana).
- 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's lack of due care and diligence.

- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 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 (See: Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana).
- 8.10 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 s. 26 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.11 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein **September 2022 to August 2027**. This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **August 31, 2027**, unless otherwise modified, suspended, cancelled or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana and its regulations.
- 8.12 This Permit must be renewed by submitting a completed *Application Form for Renewal of Environmental Authorisation* to the Agency at least six (6) months before this Permit expires, that is, no later than **February 28, 2027**.
- 8.13 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, may 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.
- 8.14 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit or with applicable laws and regulations, whether existing or forthcoming, shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties, inclusive of civil penalties, injunctive relief and imprisonment, as prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection Regulations and any other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Shamsh Rajack* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

Date 2022-08-23

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

NAME	<i>PARSARAM BISSOON</i>
DESIGNATION	<i>DRIVER</i>
SIGNATURE	<i>P. Bissoon</i>
DATE	<i>FEB-14-2023</i>



