



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia,
Georgetown, GUYANA.
Tel.: (592)-225-5467 / 5468 /
5469
Fax: (592) 225-5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: www.epaguyana.org

Environmental Permit (Renewed)

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

Reference No.:	20160218-NHRMO
Fees:	Medium (C2) - US\$ 800 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$ 4,000 (5 years: September 2023 – August 2028)

Addressee(s): **Mr. Feyaadul Hakh**
Managing Director
Ancient County Investments Inc.
Lot 1 & 2, Golden Grove
West Coast Berbice

Activity: **Operation of a Rice Mill**

Ancient County 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 a Rice Mill, located at 34, Tarlogie Farm, Corentyne, Berbice hereinafter referred to as the “Project”, in a manner indicated in the initial application submitted on February 18, 2016, and an application for renewal of Environmental Authorisation submitted on January 16, 2023, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, any existing or forthcoming Regulations made under the said Act, and any existing or forthcoming written law, guidelines, best practices, standards, codes of practice, and other statutory or regulatory instruments relevant to this project.

This is a Renewal of Operation Permit 20160218-NHRMO which was issued in January 2018 and which expired on February 28, 2023. This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisation) Regulations, 2000.

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

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No. 20160218-NHRMO

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1.0 OPERATION:

- 1.1 The Permit Holder shall 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 The Permit Holder shall implement practical measures to modernize the mill building, as well as, equipment that may need replacement, repairs, or renovation to be compliant with environmental management systems and food safety requirements.
- 1.3 The Permit Holder shall at all times, operate the rice mill in such a manner that will result in minimal impact on public health and safety and the environment.

2.0 EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The Permit Holder shall comply with the requirements of the **Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.**

- 2.1 All employees MUST be equipped with and trained in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) in accordance with their job specifications.
- 2.2 A First Aid kit, equipped in accordance with the Guyana Red Cross Standards must be located onsite at all times.
- 2.3 Communication and transportation facilities must be in place to adequately respond in cases of emergencies.
- 2.4 Make all employees aware of the conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental management practices inclusive of emergency response.
- 2.5 Employees working in confined spaces must successfully complete training to work in confined spaces.
- 2.6 Ensure that staff does not work for prolonged periods in areas where high levels of heat are emitted.

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No. 20160218-NHRMO

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- 2.7 Employees and visitors entering the area should at all times, be well protected; ensure that employees are equipped with PPEs corresponding with their activity during operation of the Rice Mill, for example, protective headwear, respirators (e.g., N 95 filters or N 95 masks), safety vests, safety boots, goggles, etc.
- 2.8 Ensure that staff performing maintenance functions at heights wears safety lines and harnesses.
- 2.9 The Permit Holder shall practice integrated pest control management and 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 Rice Mill who is certified by the PTCCB as a Pest Control Operative. If an employee is selected as the Pest Control Operative then the Rice Mill 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:
 - 2.9.1 Ensure the Pest Control Operator is equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) according to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) during the mixing and application of pesticides including the spraying and rinsing operations.
 - 2.9.2 Use only pesticides, roach, fly, ant, and rat baits that are approved for use in Guyana by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board. Pesticides should be mixed in accordance with the pesticide label directions.
- 2.10 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all employees/third-party contractors are aware of the Conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental management practices.

3.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The Permit Holder shall comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.

- 3.1 **The disposal or deposit** of solid waste (such as paddy husk, and paddy ash) into drains and/or untreated effluent directly into the surrounding waterways **is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**
 - 3.1.1 Fortify and maintain mesh/sieve at the end of the drains discharging wastewater from the rice mill into the canal. Recovered solid waste should be properly disposed of in the Solid Waste Pit or at an approved landfill site.
- 3.2 The Permit Holder shall maintain all drainage networks in and around the facility and shall be kept free of debris and/or vegetation.



3.3 Direct effluent discharge into the Environment shall be STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

3.4 The Permit Holder shall maintain the integrity of the existing waterways at all times. 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 following maximum allowable limits should not be exceeded:

- pH 5.0-9.0;
- Temperature < 40 °C;
- Total Suspended Solid (TSS) < 100 mg/L;
- Phosphate < 1 mg/L;
- Oil and Grease < 10 mg/L; and
- Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) < 40 mg/L

3.5 The Permit Holder shall conduct water quality monitoring of the parameters listed in **condition 3.4 on an annual basis, preferably during the peak operation period, and submit reports to the EPA.**

3.6 Install an oil-water separator at a designated site through which all effluent (oily water) shall pass before final discharge into receiving waters.

4.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Permit Holder shall comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.

4.1.1 The exhaust stacks of the generator and dryer shall be maintained at a height of at least two (2) meters above the tallest building in the surrounding area, so as to effectively disperse exhaust fumes into the atmosphere.

4.2 The Permit Holder shall comply with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines for Particulate Matter in the Environment, not exceeding the limits below:

PM_{2.5}: 10 µg/m³ annual mean
25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

PM₁₀: 20 µg/m³ annual mean
10 µg/m³ 24-hour mean

4.2.1 The Permit Holder shall conduct monitoring of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ upwind and downwind of the rice mill during the peak of one milling season annually and submit the results to the Agency in the Annual Report. **Note**



that the Agency reserves the right to request additional monitoring upon the review of the results submitted.

- 4.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that the operation is enclosed to minimize the impact of dust and ash on the receiving environment. A dust/ash collection system equipped with extractor fans and a containment bin **shall be** installed and maintained. The containment bin must be appropriately sized to accommodate the storage of a minimum of 75 % of paddy waste generated during a typical milling season.
- 4.4 The Permit Holder shall apply wet suppression techniques (where necessary) and/or erect dust screens/fences to control particulate matter/dust emissions from the facility, from material stockpiles, the paddy husk heap, the milling area, and other components of the operation that would generate dust.
- 4.5 The Permit Holder shall ensure that the dust suppression methods selected are practiced to minimize dust/ash from becoming airborne from material stockpiles and any other component with the potential to generate significant dust.
- 4.6 Open burning of paddy hull onsite shall be **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- 4.7 The Permit Holder's use of paddy husk as an energy source in the dryers should be optimized and maintained. All efforts should be made to recover the paddy husk and appropriately dispose of it at a suitable location, away from residents; where practical paddy husk should be re-used.
- 4.8 The Permit Holder shall operate and service all mechanical equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications at all times. Additionally, ensure that mechanical equipment works at its optimal levels to minimize atmospheric emissions.

5.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT

The Permit Holder shall comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.

- 5.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all significant noise-producing equipment, e.g. generators, 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 GNBS requirements.
- 5.2 The Permit Holder shall ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on a foundation properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No. 20160218-NHRMO

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5.3 The Permit Holder shall implement all possible measures to mitigate adverse noise impacts from heavy machinery on the environment. Silencers, mufflers, enclosures, or other appropriate devices should be used. Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or at the property boundary, whichever is closer.

- Industrial Limits **100 dB** (Day-time (06:00 h -18:00 h))
80 dB (Night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h))

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

6.1 **The Permit Holder shall comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**

6.1.1 The Permit Holder shall maintain good solid waste management and disposal practices in the operation. Provide properly covered garbage receptacles both within and outside of the operation.

6.1.2 The Permit Holder shall dispose of any additional unused paddy husk and paddy impurities and any other solid waste at a disposal site approved by the Neighborhood Democratic Council.

6.1.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all solid waste materials are reused or recycled. Options for reuse include but are not limited to bedding for poultry operations; mulching; and landfilling where practical.

6.2 The Permit Holder shall maintain a septic system on site. The septic tank should not be located within 1.5m 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.

7.0 FUEL, WASTE OIL, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

The Permit Holder shall comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.**

7.1 Notify the Environmental Protection Agency **within one (1) hour** of the occurrence of any environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, hazardous materials/wastes spills, sudden onset disaster, natural, technological, or human-

induced factors that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health or livelihood).

- 7.2 All near misses, spills, and unwanted/accidental discharges, **amounting to less than imperial five (5) gallons**, must be recorded and reported to the Agency as a component of the Annual Report.
- 7.3 Discharges of contaminants **amounting to five (5) imperial gallons or more** must be reported to the Agency by submitting an "Incident Notification Form for Spills in Onshore Operations" using the most recent template provided by the Agency, **within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident**. A follow-up incident notification form shall be submitted **within seventy-two (72) hours** of the submission of the initial notification form (a total of five days after the discharge of the contaminants).
- 7.3.1 The Permit Holder shall store all fuel away from ignition sources and have "No Smoking" signs posted where fuel is handled or store
- 7.3.2 The Permit Holder shall install a fuel containment bund with 100% containment capacity of the largest storage tank, which must have an impervious surface for the handling of all oils, lubricants, and fuels. Designate areas for storage and collection of fuel and chemicals.
- 7.3.3 The Permit Holder shall maintain a supply of relevant oil-absorbent materials such as absorbent pads, sand, etc., at the site for the clean-up of spills. Used adsorbent materials are stored and disposed of in a manner approved by the EPA. Used pads can be stored in bonded areas until appropriately disposed of.
- 7.3.4 Refrain from draining fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from the equipment onto the ground or into the waterway.
- 7.3.5 Ensure that appropriate clean-up equipment such as spill trays, oil spill clean-up recover pumps, oil spill dispersant spray systems or absorbent pads are readily accessible during refuelling exercises.
- 7.3.6 Treat and contain spills of even a minor nature with absorbent materials.
- 7.4 Designate areas for the storage and collection of fuel, fertilizers, and chemicals within a secure and ventilated bond which must have an impervious surface.
- 7.5 Store used batteries, containers containing waste oil, and any other hazardous material in a secure designated area. The area should be clearly labelled. Further,

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No. 20160218-NHRMO

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the aforementioned hazardous materials should be disposed of by an authorized hazardous waste disposal company.

8.0 COMPLIANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

- 8.1 Monitor the implementation of the conditions of this Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 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 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.
- 8.4 Maintain and submit to the Agency records of the type, composition and quantity of contaminant released (i.e., any solid, liquid, gas, odour, sound, vibration, radiation, heat or combination of any of them).
- 8.5 Submit an **Annual Report** to the EPA on your compliance with this Environmental Permit (Renewed) on or before **March 31**, of each year.
- 8.6 Report to the Agency any non-compliance(s) with the Environmental Permit (Renewed):
 - i. Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit (Renewed) becomes aware of the non-compliance outlining the anticipated manner in which human health or the environment may be impacted.
 - ii. Within **seventy-two (72) hours** of the time the Holder of the Environmental Permit (Renewed) becomes aware of the non-compliance, submit to the Agency a written report containing a description of the non-compliance, its cause, the period of non-compliance including exact dates and time and the anticipated time it is expected to continue if the non-compliance(s) has not been corrected.
- 8.7 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

- 9.1 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by



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polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 9.2 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any serious environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.3 The Permit Holder shall be liable for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution of the environment unless all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable for discharging, causing or permitting the entry into the environment, of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the contravention of the conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed), pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.6 The Permit Holder shall not be indemnified by the Agency for any activity that causes or is likely to cause pollution to the environment, resulting from adverse effects through the discharge, any contaminant in any amount, concentration, ultra-hazardous substances, chemicals or otherwise, and shall be rendered liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations.
- 9.7 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 environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 9.8 Should the Permit Holder contravene or be 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 Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 9.9 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose a serious threat to natural resources or the environment, or a risk of serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice, which may order him to immediately cease the offending activity, in accordance with Section 27 of the



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Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 9.10 The EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's activities as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05 and its regulations.
- 9.11 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 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.
- 9.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel, or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 9.13 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 9.14 This **Environmental Permit (Renewed)** is effective for the period stipulated herein, **September 2023 to August 2028.**
- 9.15 This **Environmental Permit (Renewed)** shall remain valid until **August 31, 2028**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified, or varied, in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 9.16 This **Environmental Permit (Renewed)** 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 **March 31, 2028.**
- 9.17 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, the agency may require the Permit Holder to pay, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty fee (accruing at the time such obligation was first owed for renewal) at a rate of **two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) 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.
- 9.18 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

Environmental Permit (Renewed) - Ref. No. 20160218-NHRMO

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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
Agency.


Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director

on behalf of the Environmental Protection

Date 2023-08-29

I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) 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, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations, best practices, guidelines and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	Fayazul Hakh
DESIGNATION:	Director.
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	2023-12-06





Environmental Protection Agency

File Copy

Head Office - Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana.
Tel (592) 225-6048/44 225-5471/67 Fax: (592) 225-5481
Branch Office - Berbice (Winn, Corentyne) - Tel (592) 331-2201/2207
Linden (LEN Building, Mackenzie) - Tel (592) 444-2313

Date:

06/25/05

No. 26025

Received From: Fejardel Hake

The Sum of: Eight Hundred & Forty One

\$841,800

Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars

For: Environmental Permit (Research) Rice Mill

PAID

Cash ☐ Cheques ☒ Wire Transfer ☐

Balance due

Amt. \$

Signature:

