

Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Environmental Protection Agency

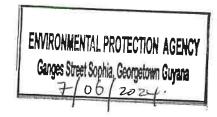


March 07, 2024

Reference Number: 20231020-MAACR

Mr. Erwin Abdulla Proprietor, Mensburgh Aquaculture Lot 233, Courtland Road Corentyne, Berbice

Dear Mr. Abdulla,



Re: Environmental Permit for Construction and Operation of a Fish Processing Facility and Operation of an Aquaculture Farm.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared an Environmental Permit valid for five (5) years to Construct and Operate a Fish Processing Facility and for the Operation of an Aquaculture Farm at Lot 26, Borlam, Corentyne, Berbice.

Please sign the Environmental Permit to indicate your acceptance of its terms and conditions and agreement to comply with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

The cost for the Permit at this time is US\$ 2,500 for five (5) years, i.e. US\$500 per year. You are required to pay this fee or its equivalent in Guyana dollars, using the Bank of Guyana daily exchange rate. Payment can be made to the Environmental Protection Agency in cash, Manager's Cheque, or Personal Cheques/draft in Guyana dollars. Please note that Personal Cheques/drafts written in United States dollars will not be accepted.

Should you have any questions or need any clarifications, please do not hesitate to make contact with **Mr. Rayner Mc Andrew**, Senior Environmental Officer I, EPA's Whim Regional Office by telephone number 337-2201/2207 or email at epawhim@epaguyana.org

wiro Yours sincerely, en

Kemraj Parsram

Executive Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Database Updated

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Environmental 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:	20231020-MAACR
Fees:	Medium (C1) US \$2,500 per year, i.e. US\$500 per a year
Fees paid	US \$2,500 (March 2024 - February 2029)

Addressee(s):

Mr. Erwin Abdulla

Proprietor

Mensburgh Aquaculture Lot 233, Courtland Road

Corentyne, Berbice

Activity:

Construction and Operation of a Seafood Processing Facility

and Operation of an Aquaculture Farm

Mr. Erwin Abdulla, trading and operating as Mensburgh Aquaculture, 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 Construct and Operate a Fish Processing Facility and Operate an Aquaculture Farm, located at Lot 26, Borlam, Corentyne, Berbice, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in a manner indicated in the Application submitted on October 20, 2023, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, any existing or forthcoming regulations made under the said Environmental Protection Act and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines, and standards relevant to this project.

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

1.0 CONSTRUCTION

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

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- 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. Affect any other change outlined in 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.
- 1.2 The Permit Holder shall submit to the Agency, the requisite approvals upon obtaining such approvals from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), the relevant Municipality, or any other authority with jurisdiction and oversight over the operations within.
- 1.3 The Permit Holder shall utilise the land in accordance with the approved site plan, all specifications of location, pathways, reserve, and boundary lines must be adhered to unless otherwise authorised.
- 1.4 Construction works shall not be executed between 18:00 hrs. to 06:00 hrs., on any day, close to communal areas unless, approval is sought from the EPA. This requirement does not apply for large concrete pours or asphalt laying and earth removal where work in the early morning and late evening is required.
- 1.5 Upon completion of works remove all barriers, equipment/material staging areas, and all support infrastructure, facilities, and equipment in accordance with documents and plans submitted to the Agency.
- 1.6 The Permit Holder shall ensure that aggregate stockpiles are protected, by tarpaulin and/or permanent cover and windbreaker from wind dispersal throughout the project site and beyond.
- 1.7 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all vehicles transporting raw materials to the site and finished materials from the site are covered.
- 1.8 Implement all practical erosion control measures to prevent pollution of nearby waterways. Trenching should not allow for sedimentation of nearby drainage systems. Cleaning of affected drains should be undertaken as necessary.
- 1.9 Store temporary stockpiles of construction materials including excavated waste in a secured, designated area, and protected from wind and water erosion. Materials should not be placed within 10 m of a watercourse or drain.
- 1.10 Good housekeeping practices to avoid or minimize the accumulation of dusty materials that have the potential to become airborne, and prompt immediate cleanup of spilled or accumulated materials.

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2.0 GENERAL OPERATION

- 2.1 The Permit holder shall prepare and submit an **Environmental Assessment** and **Management Plan (EAMP)** for the operation of both the aquaculture farm and the processing facility by **June 30, 2024**.
- 2.2 Employ or designate an employee to the role of an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)/Environmental Officer to be responsible for the implementation and coordination of all safety requirements and terms and conditions stipulated in this Permit, as well as compliance monitoring with the preparation of all required reports.
- 2.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all employees are equipped with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) relevant to employee duties during operating hours. Employees should at all times wear relevant PPEs while engaged in their duties of employment.
- 2.3 The Permit Holder shall make all employees, and third parties under your direction, aware of the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and provide training on good environmental practices. Prepare and maintain a training file for employees which shall be submitted to officers upon request.
- 2.4 Promote the conservation and efficient use of energy. Options for energy efficiency include but are not limited to those identified below:
 - 2.4.1 Maintain the use of the Energy Star labelled appliances and the compact fluorescent lamps/LED lights to reduce energy consumption;
 - 2.4.2 Implement switch-off programs and install sensors to turn off or power down lights and equipment when not in use; and
 - 2.4.3 Improve insulation on heating or cooling systems and pipe work.
- 2.5 Record, investigate, and address complaints of excessive contaminant release in air, water, or on land, of noise, dust, and/or vibrations from the public promptly upon receipt. Maintain a record of all complaints received and the action taken.
- 2.6 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.

AQUACULTURE FARM

2.7 The use of antibiotics or any other chemicals is strictly prohibited unless written permission is granted by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and the **Ministry of Agriculture Department of Fisheries.**

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- 2.8 In the event of a large shrimp/fish kills or the outbreak of a disease the EPA, the Guyana Livestock Development Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Department should be contacted immediately.
- 2.9 Adhere to the Drainage & Irrigation Laws of Guyana. Cap.64:03.
 - 2.9.1 Maintain the adequate 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; and
 - 2.9.2 Maintain a perimeter drain, which shall be adequately sloped to collect storm flow.
- 2.10 Maintain the sides of the ponds to a slope of 30° to prevent slippage. Where the embankment is constructed of clay, the slop should be steeper and a common species of grass should be planted on the pond bands to minimise/prevent soil erosion.
- 2.11 Maintain a vegetative buffer of no less than 50 metres from the main drainage canal and maintain the sea defence boundary.
- 2.12 The Permit Holder shall not remove sediment from the ponds and place soil piles on the embankments or surrounding areas. Use sediments to repair pond embankments or responsibly dispose of them.
- 2.13 Routinely monitor ponds to ensure integrity to minimize overtopping.

FISH PROCESSING PLANT

- 2.14 Foot baths containing disinfectant **must** be maintained at the entrances of the Processing Plant and its use must be mandatory before entrance into the Plant. Unauthorised persons should be **prohibited** from entering.
- 2.15 Ensure all working and storage areas are cleaned pre and post-production. Remove waste products immediately from the production line to avoid contamination.
- 2.16 Ensure that the Fire Safety Certificate is renewed yearly and all firefighting equipment are maintained and serviced regularly. The Fire Safety Certificate should be submitted on request, to Officers during Compliance Inspections and reported on in the **Annual Reports.**
- 2.17 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.

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3.0 WATER AND SOIL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000.

- 3.1 Direct discharge of solid waste and/or untreated effluent into the environment, including any waterbody is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- 3.2 Maintain the integrity of the existing waterways at all times. Discharges into the environment shall be in accordance with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Interim Guidelines for Industrial Effluent Discharge into the Environment. The following are the allowable limits for this type of project and shall not be exceeded:
 - Temperature (<40°C);
 - 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)
 - Oil and Grease (< 10 mg/l);
 - NH_3 (<5 mg/l); and
 - Chloroform (<0.002 mg/l).
- 3.3 Monitor the parameters specified above, in **Condition 3.2**, bi-annual basis (in the rainy and dry seasons); sample points should include the final discharge point(s) from the **Processing Facility** and **Aquaculture Farm**, as well as, an **upstream and downstream** sample from the receiving body of water. The results should be compiled and incorporated into the project's Annual Report submission. **The Agency reserves the right to request an independent analysis from an EPA-approved certified laboratory.**
- 3.4 Monitor the well and reservoir for heavy metals on an annual basis and for bacteria on a bi-annual basis, once within the rainy season and the other in the dry season and submit the results to the Agency. Comply with World Health Organization (WHO) Guideline (2006) Chemical Parameters and for Drinking Water Quality First Addendum to Third Edition, Volume One for heavy metals and bacteria respectively, not exceeding the limits shown in the table below:

Parameters	WHO Guideline (2006)	
Iron (Fe)	2.0 mg/l	
Copper (Cu)	2.0 mg/l	
Zinc (Zn)	3.0 mg/l	
Lead (Pb)	0.01 mg/l	
Manganese (Mn)	0.4 mg/l	
Arsenic (As)	0.01 mg/l	

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Microbiological Parameters	
E. coli	0/100 ml
Total coliform	0/100 ml

- 3.5 Promote the conservation of water resources by minimizing water consumed and reusing where possible.
- 3.6 Take all practicable precautions to prevent erosion, siltation, and sedimentation of existing water bodies/drains within the vicinity of the project site during the construction and operation phases.
- 3.7 Conduct refuelling, oil changes, and maintenance of vehicles, machinery, and other equipment on an impervious base. Spills should be cleaned-up immediately utilising the best practicable means.
- 3.8 Do not leave the discharge door of the empty pond open to prevent erosion and discharge of suspended solids during heavy rainfall periods.
- 3.9 Limit the discharge/duration of the discharge into sensitive marine environments to avoid the destruction of sensitive habitats.
- 3.10 The Permit Holder shall ensure that filtration systems (sieves/filters) are placed at the entrances of the inlet structures to prevent unwanted species and/ or their larvae from entering inlet structures.
- 3.11 The drainage system shall be maintained and free of debris and/ or vegetation. Regular cleaning of the drainage network and the immediate environs must be conducted.

4.0 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND NOISE ABATEMENT

- 4.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations 2000.
- 4.2 Noise emissions shall be monitored at the Project's boundary to determine compliance with **Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for Noise Emissions** into the Environment, not exceeding the limits listed below:

During Construction

Construction Limits: 80 dB during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)

65 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

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During Operation

Industrial Limits: 100 dB during the daytime (06:00 h - 18:00 h)

80 dB during the night-time (18:00 h - 06:00 h)

- 4.3 All significant noise-producing equipment, e.g. generator (s), water treatment plant, peelers, graders, etc. shall be 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.
- 4.4 Locate generators away from communal areas to minimise noise, fumes/soot impacts on the contiguous areas/residents. Ensure that the exhaust stacks of generators are at a sufficient distance from communal areas to minimise adverse fumes/soot impacts to the contiguous areas.
- 4.1 All equipment and machinery shall be placed on foundations that are properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 4.2 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.

5.0 FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE AND SPILLS MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulations, 2000.
- 5.2 Fuel shall at all times be stored above ground and away from ignition sources. 'No Smoking' signs shall be posted where fuel is handled or stored.
- 5.3 All secondary containment shall remain sealed and all piping shall enter or exit the containment over the wall. Secondary containment shall provide total containment, and no part of the tank infrastructure (e.g., dispenser, filing hoses, and valves) shall protrude outside the containment.
- 5.4 Direct discharge from the secondary containment of the fuel tank into the environment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- 5.5 Fuel storage tanks shall be visually inspected to verify their integrity. Inspection reports shall be maintained on-site and made available to the EPA upon request.
- 5.6 Protection measures for fuel storage tanks such as painting and coating shall be maintained to minimise corrosion of fuel tanks.
- 5.7 Maintenance and/or repair of fittings, pipes, and hoses shall be in accordance with

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- the manufacturer's specifications. A summarised inspection report shall be kept and submitted to the EPA upon request.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 The Permit Holder shall establish procedures for analysing accidents and failures to determine the causes of the failure and minimize the possibility of a recurrence. This information shall be made available to the Agency upon request.

6.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Adhere to the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013, promote good sanitation and solid waste disposal practices on site. Covered garbage receptacles shall be placed on an impervious base at strategic locations, both within and outside the facility.
- 6.2 Dumping of waste into the surrounding environment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Waste, inclusive of waste oil and/or fuel, shall not be stored within 10 meters of any waterways.
 - 6.2.1 Waste, inclusive of bones, scales, shells, and other processed materials shall not be disposed of in water or on land without prior treatment.
 - 6.2.2 Where practical generated waste shall be repurposed.
 - 6.2.3 Solid waste receptacles shall be secured when not in use.
- 6.3 Open burning waste is **Strictly Prohibited.**
- 6.4 The Permit Holder shall notify all of the relevant authorities of fish kills or deaths.
 - 6.4.1 Dispose of small quantities of dead fish by burial, in an area that does not have a high-water table. Each disposal must be followed by the application of lime and the pit should not receive more than 30 kg of biomass per month.
 - 6.4.2 If large numbers die, the cause of death must be determined before disposal methods are approved by the **Ministry of Agriculture**

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Department of Fisheries.

6.5 Construct and maintain a septic system on site; the septic tank shall 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 tank shall 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 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, 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 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 the 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 of non-compliance with the Environmental Permit:
 - 7.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Holder of the

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- Environmental Permit becomes aware of the non-compliance, and 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 Permit Holder shall be liable for any material environmental harm caused by polluting the environment, pursuant to s. 39 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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 minimize any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.4 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, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.5 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 10.3 and 10.4 of this Environmental Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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,

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- biodiversity, protected species, and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 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 Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.10 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, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 8.11 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.
- 8.12 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.13 This Environmental Permit is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.
- 8.14 This Environmental Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **March** 2024 to February 2029.
- 8.15 This Environmental Permit shall remain valid until **February 28, 2029**, unless otherwise varied, 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 the Environmental Protection Regulations.
- 8.16 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 **August 31, 2028**.

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- 8.17 Any late submission of renewal application (s) after the specified date as stated above, the agency 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 day late, until such renewal application is submitted to the Agency, without prejudice to any other rights of the Permit Holder in connection therewith.
- 8.18 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 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 Sharefal Laye

on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date

2024 03.08

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:	Erwin Satyanand Abdulla
DESIGNATION:	Owner
SIGNATURE:	Gwin Salyan and Abdulla
DATE:	June 7 2024



