

BACKGROUND

Project Name: Edmonds Farms and Investments

Type of Operation: Poultry Rearing

Location of Project: Lot 10 Belmonte, Mahaicony, East Coast Demerara.

Date Application Received: June 10, 2022

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT SITE

This designated project site is currently located on the low coastal plain and there is no current infrastructure on site. The project site is surrounded by sparse vegetation which can serve as a barrier against visual impacts. It is bordered to the South by rice fields, residential activities to the East (~ 60 metres) and West (~ 150 metres) and vacant lands to the North of the facility. The closest resident to the West is approximately 143 m downwind from the proposed site of the pen, whereas the closest resident to the East is about 60 meters upwind.



Figure 1: Google Image showing the surrounding land uses.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS SCREENING

The EPA's screening concludes that there are no foreseeable significant environmental impacts likely to be generated from this project upon consideration of the location, scale, and type of the operation. The impacts arising during the operational phase are considered to be minor, localised, and mitigable thus no further environmental studies such as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be required.

- The proposed site for the facility has been deemed appropriate for the activity by the Central Housing and Planning Permission (CH&PA) and it is not located within close proximity of similar activities that may contribute to any cumulative impacts.
- Impacts from noise and dust pollution will be minor and primarily during construction of the facility and would be short term and localized.
- Effluent from the facility will be treated via a holding/settling pond prior to discharge into the drainage canal.
- No hazardous materials/waste will be stored on site.
- The project is not in close proximity to any sensitive ecosystem. Project activities will have low to minor effects on the existing biodiversity and ecosystem in the project area.
- Wastes from the facility will be recycled, reused and disposed of via methods approved by the Agency. These methods include composting and reuse of waste generated from pen.
- Odour from the facility will be minimized through proper animal husbandry practices, which would include:
 1. Disinfection of the pen after the rearing cycle would have been completed.
 2. Keeping pens dry through daily checks of watering cans for leakages and spillage, as well as the constant topping up and turning of litter to prevent caking.
- Odour will also be mitigated through the creation of strong buffer zones via the planting of fruit trees around the perimeter of the property and pen. This appears to be an effective method, as studies have shown that vegetative buffers can incrementally mitigate odours by interacting with particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and ammonia through a complex of bio-physical dynamics.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that there are no foreseeable significant impacts from the project that is outside the scope of intervention by the developer. Therefore, no further environmental studies such as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Environmental Management Plan (EMP) are required. To ensure the significance of impacts remain low, the implementation of the best applicable environmental management practices will be required. These will become enforceable upon the issuance of an Environmental Authorisation for the project