



## Environmental Impacts Screening Decision

**Project Name: Romesh Kishun**

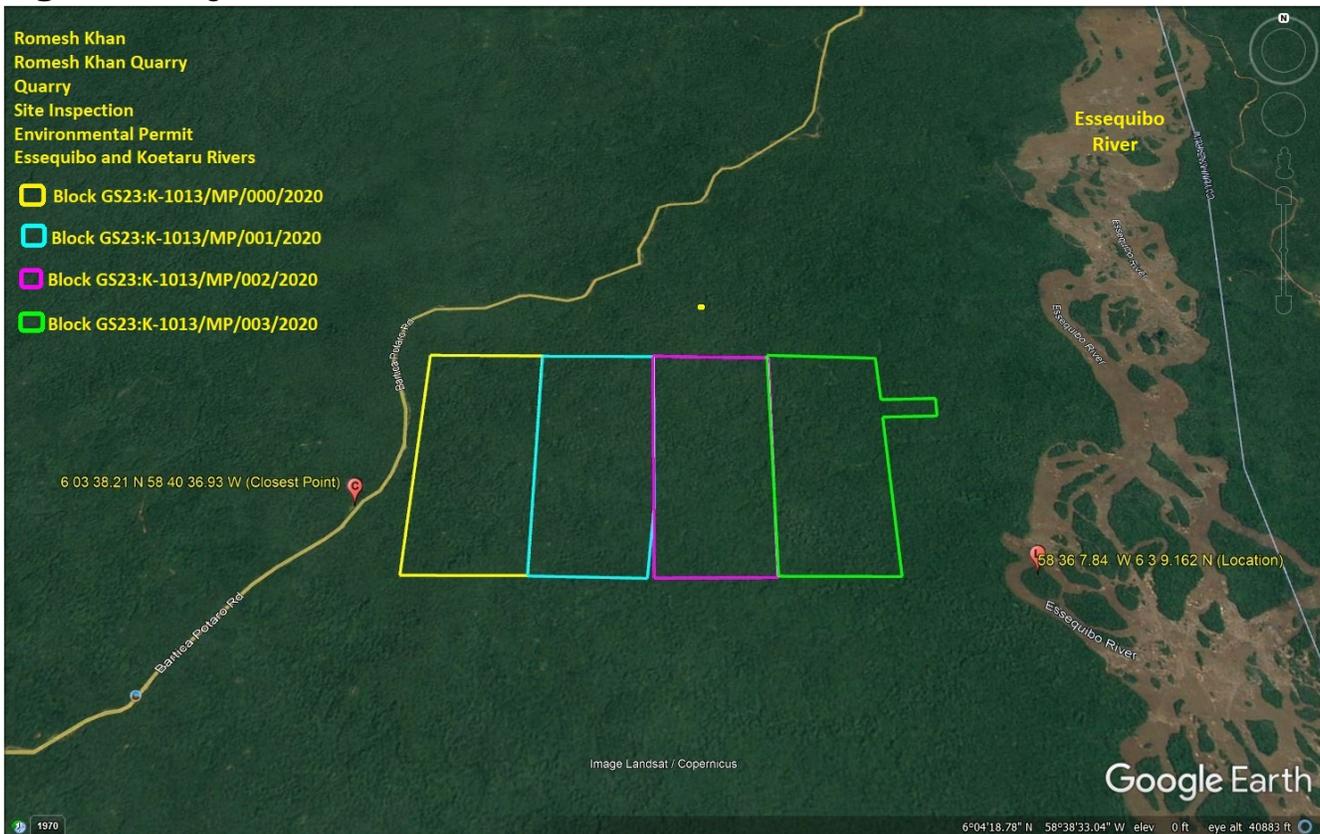
**Type of Operation: Stone Quarry**

**Reference NOs.: 20211013-RKSQ1, 20211013-RKSQ2, 20211013-RKSQK, 20211013-RKSQ3**

**Location: GS23: K-1013/MP/000-003/2020, Confluence of the Essequibo River and Hurikabra Creek, Region 7**

**Maps.**

**Figure 1. Project Boundaries**



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**Map 2. Project boundaries in relation to nearest Communities**



The project is located at the confluence of the Essequibo River and Koetaru Rivers with the following coordinates:

**Block GS23: K-1013/MP/000/2020**

With geographical coordinates of longitude 58 36 7.84 W 6 3 9.162 N

Point A: 58 40 14.916 W 6 3 8.482 N

Point B: 58 40 14.938 W 6 4 52.576 N

Point C: 58 39 26.006 W 6 4 52.54 N

Point D: 58 39 25.693 W 6 3 8.017 N

**Block GS23: K-1013/MP/001/2020**

With geographical coordinates of longitude 58 36 7.844 W 6 3 9.162 N

Point A: 58 39 26.006 W 6 4 52.54 N

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Point B: 58 38 37.23 W 6 4 52.403 N  
Point C: 58 38 36.672 W 6 3 37.596 N  
Point D: 58 38 39.023 W 6 3 7.0574 N  
Point E: 58 39 25.693 W 6 3 8.017 N

**Block GS23: K-1013/MP/002/2020**

With geographical coordinates of longitude 58 36 7.844 W 6 3 9.162 N

Point A: 58 38 36.672 W 6 3 7.596 N  
Point B: 58 38 37.23 W 6 4 52.403 N  
Point C: 58 38 17.509 W 6 4 52.266 N  
Point D: 58 37 47.618 W 6 4 52.014 N  
Point E: 58 37 48.148 W 6 3 8.053 N

**Block GS23: K-1013/MP/003/2020**

With geographical coordinates of longitude 58 36 7.844 W 6 3 9.162 N

Point A: 58 37 47.618 W 6 4 52.014 N  
Point B: 58 37 0.43W 6 4 51.614 N  
Point C: 58 37 0.448 W 6 4 30.302 N  
Point D: 58 36 37.541 W 6 4 30.389 N  
Point E: 58 36 37.559 W 6 4 21.382 N  
Point F: 58 37 0.462 W 6 4 20.809 N  
Point G: 58 37 0.545 W 6 3 8.51 N  
Point H: 58 37 48.148 W 6 3 8.053 N

**Key Considerations**

- The proposed blocks are within the Mazaruni Mining District 03 (according the Guyana Geology Mines Commission zoning). The total acreage for the combined properties estimates at 4,800 acres, of which less than 40 acres will be disturbed by project implementation. Specifically, 11.46 acres for the mining pit, 0.5 acre for screening and crushing plant, 4 acres for overburden stockpile, 5.7 acres as workshop area, accommodation land space of 3.5 acres.
- There are no nearby residents or settlers to warrant a major social assessment. However, developer has noted his commitment to dialogue with communities regarding various opportunities for employment and apprenticeship. Note that the closest and most established community is Rockstone see Map 2 which is estimated to be 13 km from the proposed location.

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- The Project area is not located within the vicinity of any proposed or existing Protected Area. Proposed Protected Areas are those deemed with paramount ecosystem value or services, or contains endemic or endangered species.

### Ancillary Services

Key facilities to be constructed are:

-Magazine: which will be located south of the staff dwellings, approximately 1000 feet away. Explosive license is still to be acquired since the construction phase must first be completed before such can be acquired.

-Health facility: Serious emergencies will be transferred to the Bartica, Linden Hospital, or GPHC. However, it would be most practical to refer emergencies to Bartica since it would be estimated closest at 39 km as opposed to Mabura at approximately 85km.

-A mini-Water Treatment plant will be constructed onsite. A Well may also need to be constructed on site.

-Mobile Equipment workshop; and

-Fuel storage bay. It should be noted that all fuel will be barged and/or trucked to site and transferred into storage tanks within enclosures capable of retaining 120 % of the tank in the case of any failure.

### Environmental impact screening

Overall, the screening determined that the Project does not present any foreseeable significant impacts to the area of influence, nor to the surrounding regions, therefore being minor and localized. Although there were a few cases of uncertainties regarding impacts on surface water, especially due to the area being largely inaccessible, the operation processes and activities are common to the quarrying industry. This means, an application of the mitigation hierarchy and established best practices and guidelines will render the magnitude of the impacts as minor. An Environmental Management Plan will be required to address the uncertainties and predictable impacts which will include a baseline study of the area of influence, impact assessment and mitigatory actions and a monitoring plan throughout the project's lifetime. Further, the project will be regulated in compliance with pertinent environmental regulations,

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IFC Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines, and International Best Practices. The EPA's decision is further based on the following considerations:

1. Air quality and noise impacts will primarily be localised since dust and carbon emissions are directly linked to storage of materials and operation of heavy-duty machinery/power generation on site, buffered by surrounding vegetation. Dust nuisance may become problematic during the dry seasons and windy atmospheric conditions. These will be mitigated using wet suppression techniques, enforcement of speed limits, and installment of spray bars on crushing equipment. Due to blasting occurring at the mine, higher noise levels are expected on site. This too, will be temporary and localised, and can be attenuated by maintaining vegetative buffer zones between the site and mine accommodation or other contiguous land uses.
2. It is certain that surface water will be impacted by construction and stripping activities and surface runoff, given some streams navigating through the properties, however, the extent and magnitude of these could not be determined due to a current inaccessible area. A follow up inspection is therefore needed during the early phases of the operation. To safeguard against any potential impacts, a management plan will be mandatory in accordance with the Agency's requirements. The quality rather than quantity is likely to be affected. No community will be affected.
3. Groundwater isn't expected to be significantly impacted unless process water comes in to contact with the water table in the sedimentation pond but this can be avoided using an impermeable liner proposed for use by the developer. Residual impact is therefore considered minor with low likelihood. A path for ground water contamination may emerge should a Well be constructed. Preventative measures can be imposed to avoid this. Fuel will be stored in containment walls and drip pans are to be employed during refuelling. Residual impacts from any fuel spills are therefore deemed negligible. The project certainly will not significantly reduce groundwater quantity.
4. The two common anticipated impacts regarding soil quality are fuel spills and erosion of denuded earthen surfaces down gradient. These will be localized and hence of a low magnitude especially if best practices are employed as signaled by the developer. Although soil will be excavated as a precedent to blasting and fragmenting rocks, under proper management conditions, soils can be utilised and restored during the reclamation process. Rutting of soil along access roads is also anticipated.

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5. Several waste types to be produced by the operation are: organic waste, domestic effluent, hazardous waste in the form of waste oil, and process water. Developer registered intentions to implement several management measures which may contain these wastes from release beyond localized environment. Landfill will be constructed, a septic tank system will be installed, and incorporating a grease trap for kitchen discharges. The magnitude of impact can be low under these measures. An approved EMP will ensure the proposed measures are implemented and the impact magnitude restricted to low.
6. The project entails extraction of a non-renewable resource which is irreversible although localised. Land will be occupied across three property blocks whilst exploring a fourth block. It is unknown whether the area could have had a potential for forestry uses. There are currently no other competing uses such as agriculture, industrial development, recreational uses, etc.
7. The project does not locate immediate to known Protected Areas nor is it a proposed Protected Area or Zone of conservation interests under Protected Areas Commission. There may be presence of endangered species such as the Jaguar, however the habitat type is wide range and can allow for migration. Buffer zones will serve as wildlife corridors ensuring safe migration of potentially disturbed species.
8. The Project's impact to climate change through atmospheric carbon emissions is deemed negligible. How future climatic changes will affect the project area cannot be predicted and a localised long-term study of the area isn't available. Rainfall patterns may affect land stability especially when exposed and during variable conditions such as El Nino.
9. Social impacts will be insignificant. Firstly, there are no communities in proximity or directly and solely dependent on the area and its streams. Secondly, cultural or historical sites are not known of the site. Although unlikely, institution of chance-find procedures will ensure an account of and safe removal/transfer of material. Residual impacts are thus deemed insignificant and of low likelihood. Thirdly, there are currently no known social conflicts regarding the area, unless later emerges which can be determined during 30 Days Public Notice. Resistance to the project is not foreseen under the above considerations.

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10. There has been growing allocation of lands for quarry to developers within this region and an additional landmass could be earmarked towards this end. Cumulatively, this quarry will therefore contribute to additional impacts to the region. Buffer zones between operations or projects will be encouraged through Environmental Authorisation and Regulation.

### **Conclusion and recommendations**

This project will not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) but rather an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be a necessary requirement for Environmental Authorisation. Social impacts are insignificant and less than 40% of the combined blocks will be cleared to facilitate the entire operation inclusive of auxiliary facilities. The project area is not known to constitute Guyana's biodiversity hotspots nor is it a proposed conservation area. Most impacts can be mitigated using feasible actions to maintain the project's low magnitude profile and more so to remain localised throughout the project's lifetime. Use of hazardous materials and waste will not be a major concern unlike the other extractive industries.

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