

Environmental Impacts Screening Decision
GAICO Construction and General Services INC.

Project location and components



The facility is located on Nismes Foreshore, West Bank Demerara and has a few houses within a proximity of 120m; but with the majority of the area being open to farming. The site is located approximately three (3) km from the Demerara Harbour Bridge. The property consists of four (4) acres of land with full access to the Demerara River. The site is currently being used as a Wharf facility for the last 8 years to moor company vessels. In addition, it is being used for discharging and storing of equipment and construction materials, dry docking and maintenance for company vessels. The proposed expansion to the facility will have two key components:

Phase 1 - upgrade of dry dock, wharf and laydown yard to handle heavier loads.

Phase 2 - two finger pier construction using reinforced concrete sitting on concrete piles along with sheet piles to retain infill area.

Further details can be found in the project summary available on EPA website.

Environmental impact screening

The EPA's screening concludes that there are no identifiable significant environmental impacts nor is the project deemed environmentally sensitive. Impacts arising from the construction and operational phases of the project are minor, localized, and acceptable, and an EMP will be prepared providing measures to avoid, prevent and mitigate impacts during the construction and operation.

- The project is an upgrade and expansion of an existing wharf facility at Nismes that has been highly modified (cleared, filled, built on). Impacts will be neutral to low. River bank stabilization and revetment from the project will have a positive impact.
- Impacts from noise will be low to moderate and primarily during construction and short term and localized. The area is not populated. The nearest community/residents are approximately 120 metres north west of the project site.
- Impacts from dust pollution will be low to moderate and primarily during construction and short term and localized. The nearest community/residents to be affected are approximately 260 metres west of the project site.
- The proposed project is not in close vicinity of any protected areas. However, riverine mangroves (protected species) fringe south and north of the location. Project activities will not affect these mangroves and these mangrove forest will remain intact. Impact is considered low.
- Project activities will have low to minor effects on the existing ecological or biological (flora or fauna) biodiversity of the river at the project area, during construction which will be short term and measures exist to avoid, prevent and/or mitigate. Impacts on the environment associated with the physical dredging of the area and subsequent increased short-lived sedimentation will have a neutral to low impact on the River fauna and flora due to the area is subjected to inter tidal turbidity and sedimentation.
- Due diligence and proactive management of all pre-construction, construction and operational activities will ensure limited disturbance to the daily business activities undertaken within the project area, and surrounding business and community activities.
- A requirement is the preparation of a pre-construction, construction and operational EMP to manage environmental impacts arising from the project along with a corresponding schedule and monitoring of mitigation measures to ensure potential impacts are maintained at insignificant levels. It also includes the institutional arrangements for implementing the EMP to ensure its effectiveness.
- Operation activities are restricted to wharf, dry dock, and laydown & storage yard for construction materials.

Conclusion and recommendations

The EPA concludes that there are no significant impacts nor is the project deemed environmentally sensitive. Impacts arising from the construction and operational phases of the project are minor, localized, and acceptable. An EMP will be required to provide the set of measures to avoid, prevent, and mitigate any impacts and include monitoring. The proposed upgrade and expansion will result significant improvements to the area's operational activities, its efficiency, and health and safety to workers will be greatly improved and provide improved environmental and economic service facilities to the communities and the nation in general.