



**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

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Operation 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.

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| Reference No.: | 20201117-SMLWP |
| Fees: | Small (C1) US\$500- Five (5) Years (i.e. US\$100 per year) |
| Fees Paid: | US\$500- Five (5) Years (February, 2021 to January, 2026) |

Addressee(s): Abhilash Deokie,
185 Cancun Gardens
East Bank Demerara

Activity: Operation of a Sawmill

Abhilash Deokie, trading and operating under the name, Naila D Investment 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 Sawmill, located at Tract 'BND' being a portion of State Land situated at Long Creek Right Bank Haimaruni River, Linden Soesdyke Highway, hereinafter referred to as the "Project", in the manner indicated in the Application submitted on November 17, 2020, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, existing and/or forthcoming regulations made under the said Act, and/or any other applicable laws, best practices, guidelines and standards relevant to this project.

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

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Notify the Agency in writing and obtain its approval for **ANY** proposed changes to the operation **at least fourteen (14) days** prior to making the change. The notification shall contain a **description of the proposed change in operation**. It is not necessary to make such a notification if **an application to vary** this Permit has been

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made and the application contains a description of the proposed change. In this condition '**change in operation**' means a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension, or any additional installation, which may have consequences for the environment. Changes to operation may include but not be limited to the following:

- a) Changes in operation, structure, or layout of the facility, plant or building;
- b) Installation of new and/or changes to equipment, machine, apparatus, mechanism, system or technology serving the facility or operation;
- c) Any technology used or installed at the facility from which effluent may be emitted from.
- d) Any other variance prescribed by Regulation 20(3) of the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations.

- 1.2 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress to and egress from the site.
- 1.3 At all times ensure that there is no over-crowding of the Sawmill and/or no over stacking of lumber.
- 1.4 Ensure that trucks are equipped with the necessary reflecting signage to warn the public of impending danger of parked/moving trucks with logs on the public thoroughfare.
- 1.5 Ensure that the transportation of logs and lumber to and from your operation does not impede road/river traffic. Logs and lumber must be contained within the project boundaries of the project site.
- 1.6 Discharge logs safely through the use of appropriate equipment to ensure logs do not free fall from haulers to the ground causing vibration and excessive damage to soils and/or vegetation.
- 1.7 Prohibit the hunting, trapping and trading of endangered and locally protected wildlife species, in keeping with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016. Further, ensure that the prohibition of capture, trading and removal of wildlife be a term of employment for all third party contractors and employees.
- 1.8 Undertake the removal of trees and vegetation in areas where only absolutely necessary.
- 1.9 Provide adequate fire protection measures such as fire extinguishers and sand buckets in accordance with the Guyana Fire Service's approval.
- 1.10 Ensure the Fire Safety Certificate is renewed **yearly** and **all** fire fighting equipment is maintained and serviced regularly. The Fire Safety Certificate should be presented to Officers upon request during Compliance Inspections and submitted as part of your Annual **Report required in Permit Condition 7.3.**

2.0 ROADS/RIVERS

- 2.1 Ensure that all reasonable and practical measures such as the provision of turnout drains are implemented to prevent erosion of roads. Runoff from roads should not discharge directly to natural water ways.
- 2.2 Ensure that activities of the operation do not impede river traffic. Storage of logs in the Bonasika Creek or any other water ways is strictly prohibited. Logs must be contained within the boundaries of the Project site.

3.0 EMPLOYEES

- 3.1 All employees must be equipped with and trained in the use of personal protective equipment to fit their specification such as: chaps for chainsaw operators, hi-visibility vests, respirator, hard hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear and ensure appropriate utilisation of these gears. A log for the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to employees must be maintained. Evidence of distribution log must be presented to officer of the Agency upon request during compliance inspections.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Ensure all employees are trained in the use of fire extinguishers and firefighting protocol.
- 3.4 Ensure that all employees and/or third party contractors are aware of the terms and conditions of the Operation Permit and provide training (which should be recorded) in areas such as, operating heavy duty equipment, woodmizer, etc., and on good environmental management practices.

4.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 **Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013, where applicable.**
- 4.2 Maintain good housekeeping, sanitary and hygienic practices. The aesthetic quality of your surroundings must be maintained at all times.
- 4.3 A Solid Waste Pit should be constructed at least 100 meters away from waterways, above the water table and lined with at least 1.5 metres of clay/loam material to avoid leachate entering the ground water.
 - 4.3.1 Storm water should be diverted from the waste pit. Pits should be maintained and covered on a regular basis to minimize fly and/or rodent infestations as

well as mal-odour from leachate.

- 4.3.2 When the maximum capacity is reached, the solid waste pit should be covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil and another suitable site determined.
- 4.4 Covered garbage receptacles must be placed at strategic locations around Project Site. All solid waste collected in these receptacles must be disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal pit approved by the Agency. Reuse, recycle and compost waste materials as far as practical.
- 4.5 Dispose of any additional unused sawdust, wood shaving, and wood ends at a designated waste disposal site approved by the Agency. In event that sawdust, wood shavings and wood ends accumulate on site, it should be kept in heaps not exceeding two (2) metres in height at a designated location.
- 4.6 Options for reuse include but are not limited to:
- a. Bedding for poultry operations.
 - b. Mulching.
 - c. Land filling.
- 4.7 The disposal of wood ends, sawdust and shaving in any surrounding water ways are **strictly prohibited**.
- 4.8 Burning of wood ends, sawdust/ shaving and domestic waste are **strictly PROHIBITED**.
- 4.9 Construct and maintain new or existing Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine according to the following requirements:
- 4.9.1 Keep its environs in a clean and hygienic manner and maintain it both internally and externally.
- 4.9.2 It should be:
- Built with suitable materials, such as, hardwood or concrete; the soil must be lined with at least 1.5 metres of clay or loam to avoid leachate entering the ground water;
 - Properly vented with a tall ventilation pipe located on the windward side;
 - Fitted with a fly-screen on top of the vent to prevent the passage of flies and mosquitoes; the mesh apertures (holes) of the fly screen must not exceed 1.5 millimeters and made with corrosion resistant material, able to withstand intense rainfall, high temperatures and strong sunlight;
 - Positioned at least thirty (30) metres away from surface and ground water sources, creeks, wells or springs.

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- Dug at least 0.6 metres above the average ground water table and at least four (4) metres away from any dwelling (such as camps, and any sleeping and living quarters, etc.).
- Positioned where it can be easily reached during bad weather and not cause odour.
- Covered with at least 0.3 metres of soil when the maximum capacity is reached, and a suitable site determined for another latrine.

5.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

Adhere to the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000** and the **Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000**.

- 5.1 Comply with the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) Guidelines for noise emission into the environment, not exceeding the limits below at a distance of 15 m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.

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

- 5.2 Ensure that all sound-making devices, e.g. generator is suitably enclosed in structure constructed with materials of good noise insulation properties (e.g. hollow concrete blocks, insulation boards, solid clay bricks) and are equipped with silencers or mufflers to reduce the noise level.
- 5.3 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 5.4 Implement all possible measures such as, ensuring equipment is serviced and operated according to manufacturer's recommendations to minimise the impact of sound levels on the environment.
- 5.5 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.

6.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Comply with the provisions of the Environmental Protection (**Hazardous Waste Management**) Regulations, 2000, as follows:

- 6.1.1 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, pesticides) to ground water or soil from the permitted installation. Any accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water must be recorded and

reported **within twenty-four (24) hours** to the Agency for further investigation.

- 6.1.2 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the sawmill. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Wastes at the Saw Mill.
- 6.1.3 Store waste oil in tightly covered drums or barrels to avoid spillage. It is considered an offence under Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act and contrary to the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or in water ways.
- 6.1.4 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example, as lubricant for equipment, where practical.
- 6.1.5 Waste oils, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers must be appropriately labelled, and stored in a containment bund with an impervious surface until such time for reuse or sale to an authorised dealer.

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 Operation Permit, insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 7.3 Submit to the EPA **Environmental Annual Report** 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.
- 7.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Operation Permit is granted. The Permit Holder, His Agents, and/or Sub-contractors shall be liable for any loss or damage which arises from the project as a result of the activities attributable to the project 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 event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holders or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.

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- 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 any non-compliance(s) with the Operation Permit as follows:
- 7.8.1 Within **twenty-four (24) hours** of the time the Permit Holder becomes aware of the non-compliance, 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 EPA reserves the right to conduct regular inspections of the Permit Holder's operation as part of its monitoring and enforcement requirements under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 8.2 The EPA reserves the right to review and/or amend the conditions and fees attached to this Permit, which also includes the review and/or amendment of Permit Fees in consideration of any changes in fee structure as determined by the Agency for projects of this nature.
- 8.3 The EPA shall have the right to cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 8.4 The Permit Holder, His Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractor(s) 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.
- 8.5 This Operation Permit is not the final consent; all relevant permissions should be obtained and maintained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.

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8.6 The Permit Holder, his Servants, Agents and/or Sub-Contractors shall be strictly jointly and severally liable as follows:

- a. For any activity that causes, or is likely to cause pollution of the environment, unless all reasonable and practicable measures were taken to prevent or minimise any resulting adverse effect, in accordance with Section 19(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- b. For any activity which results in the discharge, release or entry into the environment of any contaminant in any amount, concentration or level in excess of that prescribed by the regulations or stipulated by this Permit, in accordance with Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05 Laws of Guyana.
- c. The discharge or release of contaminants, such as sludge, wastewater, hydraulic fluids, lubricants, fuel, chemicals, hazardous materials or other wastes relative to the Project, which are not regulated herein, or permitted to be discharged herein, are strictly prohibited. Any such discharge or release shall be deemed a violation of Section 19(1)(a) and/or Section 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act.
- d. For the compensation of any Party who suffers any loss or damage as a result of the project. (s.19(3)(e)) Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- e. For any material or serious environmental harm caused by pollution of the environment intentionally or recklessly in accordance with section 39 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the Environmental Protection Act, 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- f. Any gross negligence or willful misconduct resulting in serious risk, or adverse effects to the marine environment, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release or discharge, spill, contaminant fluids, oil, or lubricants from any facilities permitted under this project.
- g. For the payment of all costs and expenses related to the assessment of damage and investigations required, as result of any pollution incidents attributable or likely to be attributable to the activity for which this Permit has been issued.

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- 8.7 The Agency (EPA) shall notify the Permit Holder immediately of any written claim or notice sent by any complainant seeking loss or damage for negligence as a result of the Permit Holder lack of due care and diligence.
- 8.8 Where it appears to the Agency that the Permit Holder is engaged in any activity that may pose serious threat to natural resources or serious pollution of the environment or any damage to public health, the EPA may issue to the Permit Holder a Prohibition Notice Order to immediately cease the offending activity in accordance with Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.9 Should the Permit Holder contravene or is 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 EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 8.10 This Operation Permit is effective for the period stipulated herein **February, 2021 to January 31, 2026**. This Operation Permit shall remain valid until **January 31, 2025**, unless otherwise modified, cancelled, suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this Permit or the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000.
- 8.11 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 **July 31, 2025**.
- 8.12 Any late submission of renewal application after the specified date as stated above, shall 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 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.
- 8.13 Failure to comply with the requirements of this Permit shall render the Permit Holder liable to prosecution and to penalties prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection Regulations, 2000, including civil penalties and injunctive relief.

Signed by


Ms. Sharifah Razack
Executive Director (ag)

on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Date

2021.02.02

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

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| NAME: | Nurhanjane Rajaram |
| SIGNATURE: | Company Secretary Naila D Investments Inc.) |
| DESIGNATION: | N. Rajaram. |
| DATE: | 2021-02-03 |

