



Environmental Protection Agency

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Environmental Permit (Renewed)

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.:	20190508 - NMSSF
Fees:	Small (C3) US\$900 (3 years) i.e., US\$300 per year
Fees Paid:	US\$900 (September, 2024 to August, 2027)

Addressee(s): Mr. Nazir Mohamed
Proprietor
Forest Woods Inc.
Lot 982, Block 'X', Great Diamond
East Bank Demerara.

Activity: Operation of a Sawmill, Shingles Manufacturing and Charcoal Production (Seven Kilns and Two Earthen Pits)

Mr. Nazir Mohamed, trading and operating under the name, Forest Woods Inc., herein referred to as the "Permit Holder", is hereby authorised in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2005, and the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000, to operate a sawmill, Shingles Manufacturing and Charcoal Production (seven kilns and two earthen pits) at Lot 243, Long Creek Newtown, South of Hauraruni Creek, East of Soesdyke/Linden Highway, Region 4, hereinafter referred to as "the Project", in the manner indicated in the Renewal Application submitted on January 17, 2024, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, 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.

This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.

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

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2024-10-02

1.0 OPERATION

- 1.1 Make an application to the Agency to vary this Environmental Permit (Renewed) in instances where it becomes necessary to:
- 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 Ensure that adequate provisions are in place for ingress and egress to the site.
- 1.3 Load and offload of logs and lumber between **06:00 h to 18:00 h** to avoid disturbance to residents.
- 1.4 Ensure a well-drained and relatively levelled area is chosen for the operation of the kilns.
- 1.5 Area cleared for pit burning must be well drained, leveled and must not be more than six (6) metres in diameter for easy mobility.
- 1.6 Ensure the dug pits are refilled after use. Rain water should be diverted from the used pits to avoid pest/insect infestations.
- 1.7 At no time shall there be more than two (2) kilns or two (2) earthen pits burning at the same time, in an effort to minimise excessive smoke emissions into the environment.
- 1.8 Contribute to the maintenance of the access trail leading to the operation. Fill in pot holes that may develop during trail use. Use waste material (such as coal dust/wood chips), fill as soon as possible to reduce the potential of erosion.
- 1.9 Kilns must be placed about 4-6 inches off the ground and monitored every 2-3 hours, so as to facilitate efficient wood burning.
- 1.10 Ensure while wood is burning, it is monitored regularly and surrounding areas of charcoal operation are completely buffered.
- 1.11 Wood use for charcoal production shall not be from an endangered, threatened or protected plant species unless approved by the relevant authority i.e., Guyana Forestry Commission.

2.0 EMPLOYEES

2.1 Comply with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Cap. 99:01, Laws of Guyana.

- 2.1.1 Provide employees with the necessary protective equipment to fit their job specification.
 - 2.1.2 Provide first aid kit/s equipped according to the Guyana Red Cross standards.
 - 2.1.3 Provide communication and transportation systems to respond to emergencies.
- 2.2 Make all employees/third party contractors aware of the Conditions of the Environmental Permit (Renewed) and provide training on good environmental management practices. A training report shall be kept and submitted upon Officers' request during a Compliance Inspection.

3.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations, 2013.**
- 3.2 Maintain good house-keeping, sanitary and hygienic practices, and the aesthetic quality of your surroundings at all times.
- 3.3 Ensure effective management of recoverable materials and that all waste generated by the project is in accordance with s. 19(1), (2) and (3) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 3.4 Promote proper solid waste management and disposal practices on site.
- 3.4.1 Place covered garbage receptacles at strategic locations at the facility.
 - 3.4.2 Waste shall be collected and disposed at an approved waste disposal facility.
 - 3.4.3 Waste shall not be disposed in or near the waterways.
- 3.5 At all times, the environs for receptacles should be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis, to prevent the fall or flow of garbage in the surrounding environment and/or attraction of rodents and other vermin.
- 3.6 Maintain a dust containment bin to store all wood waste (sawdust and shavings).

- 3.7 Ensure wood waste such as sawdust, shaving, wood ends, etc. and charcoal residue are recovered and appropriately disposed of at a dumpsite/landfill or reused. Reuse options include but are not limited to use as:

- 3.7.1 Poultry bedding;
- 3.7.2 Mulching;
- 3.7.3 Landfilling; and
- 3.7.4 Soil ameliorant.

4.0 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000, and the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 4.2 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 15m (50 ft) from the source or property boundary, whichever is closer.
- **Industrial Limits: 100 dB** (Day-time (06:00 h - 18:00 h))
- 4.3 Ensure all equipment and machinery are placed on foundations properly designed to ensure effective damping of vibrations.
- 4.4 Ensure that all sound-making devices, e.g., generators, planers, etc. are suitably enclosed in structures 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Take all reasonable precautions to prevent wood dust from becoming airborne.
- 4.7 Reduce the speed limits during dry periods to minimise dust generation on routes traversed by vehicles.

5.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- 5.1 Comply with the provisions of the **Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000.**
- 5.2 There shall be no release of any pollutants (i.e., fuel, waste oil, wood preservatives) to ground water or soil from permitted installation. Accidental release of pollutants to soil and ground water must be recorded and reported **within 24 hrs** to the Agency for further investigation.
- 5.3 Take the necessary precautionary measures such as the use of leak-proof and tightly closed containers during the transport of fuel to the concession. Appropriate measures should also be taken during the handling and use of all Hazardous Waste at the concession.
- 5.4 Store fuel and waste oil in tightly covered plastic drums/pails to avoid spillage. Where possible, ensure it is stored on an impervious surface. It is an offence to drain fuel/lubricants including waste oils of any quantity from equipment onto the ground, drains or water ways.
- 5.5 Promote the reuse of waste oil, for example lubrication of equipment, where practical.
- 5.6 Label and store before being reused or sold to an authorised dealer; waste oil, used batteries, oily rags, filters and oil containers, in a designated area with an impervious surface.

6.0 COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Monitor the implementation of the Conditions of this Environmental Permit (Renewed), insofar as they involve adherence by your employees and all third parties under your direction.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Conform to all terms and conditions under which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) is granted and the Permit Holder 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.

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- 6.5 Inform the Agency prior to or within **thirty (30) days** of any change of name or ownership of the operation.
- 6.6 Notify the Agency **within twenty-one (21) days** in event of death, bankruptcy, liquidation or receivership of the Permit Holder or if the Company becomes a party to an amalgamation.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 Report to the Agency any non-compliance with the Environmental Permit (Renewed) as follows:
- 6.8.1 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.
 - 6.8.2 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.
 - 6.8.3 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.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY/LIABILITIES

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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 minimise any resulting adverse effect, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The Permit Holder shall be liable to compensate any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of contravening conditions 7.2 and 7.3 of this Environmental

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Permit, pursuant to s. 19 of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana.

- 7.5 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, biodiversity, protected species and natural habitat with respect to any release, discharge, or spill, of contaminant fluids, oil or lubricants.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 The EPA reserves the right to enter at any time the permitted facility and 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.
- 7.9 The EPA has the right to modify, cancel or suspend this Permit for breach of any of the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 7.10 **This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is not the final consent; all relevant Permissions should be obtained from other regulatory bodies for continued operation.**
- 7.11 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) is effective for the period stipulated herein; **September, 2024 to August, 2027.**
- 7.12 This Environmental Permit (Renewed) shall remain valid until **August 31, 2027**, unless otherwise suspended, cancelled, modified or varied, 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 (Authorisations) Regulations, 2000.
- 7.13 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 February **28, 2027.**

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- 7.14 Any late submission of renewal application 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 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.
- 7.15 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 other applicable Laws of Guyana.

Signed by *Shanifah Rajack* on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.
for **Kemraj Parsram**
Executive Director
Executive Director

Date 2024-09-26

I hereby accept the above Terms and Conditions upon which this Environmental Permit (Renewed) 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, 2000, and any forthcoming regulations and standards made under this Act.

NAME:	Nazir Mohamed
DESIGNATION:	Owner
SIGNATURE:	<i>Nazir Mohamed</i>
DATE:	2024-10-02

